WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 4 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | AUGUST 2000

"The utterance of democracy is a way of saying no to inequality, injustice and coercion." Giovanni Sartori

Chaos at KAOS?

WIP News Service

KAOS Programmers Meeting

A meeting will be held Monday, August 7th, 7 PM at Traditions Cafe, downtown Olympia at Water and 5th St. Volunteer programmers at KAOS who do not serve in management positions are encouraged to attend this first meeting to:

1) discuss the formation of a KAOS Volunteer Programers Union
2) discuss amongst ourselves issues raised by the initial findings of the recent KAOS study
3) review past programmer organizing efforts

Meeting on KAOS

Wednesday August 9th. The meeting will be held at 7 PM at the Organic Farmhouse at the Evergreen State College. People can call KAOS at 866-6000 x6897, or Media Island at 352-8526 for more information. Everyone who is concerned about the future of Community Radio should attend.

The Apology

If you were listening to KAOS this [Monday the 21st] morning about 9:50 am, you know that Austin Kelley and I had an angry exchange in the air studio this morning during the broadcast of Democracy Now. With the program in progress, Austin chose to open the control room mike and began to broadcast his comments about our argument, at which point I intentionally shut off the transmitter. It remained off for approximately 2 minutes while I apologized to Austin and prevailed on him to allow me to restart the transmitter. I did a station ID, and the station returned to normal programming at approximately 9:55 am.

The purpose of this message is to apologize to everyone at KAOS, including listeners, for my part in this unneccessary and unreasonable interruption of our normal programming. I lost control of my temper and acted without thinking. I regret my involvement in this unfortunate incident.

Michael Huntsberger, KAOS manager
<Huntsber@evergreen.edu>

The Other Side

While I appreciate that Michael is apologetic about turning off the transmitter while I was signed-on, I feel that his account may not give you an accurate picture of what happened. Monday Morning, I arrived in the KAOS studios about 9:34. Michael wanted me to come directly into his office, but I walked past the office and into the air-studio knowing that I had to go on mike at about 9:40. Approximately 9:42 I arrived at his office.Michael knew I had invited him onto my show already, but he seemed to want to just probe about what I knew/ thought without committing to whether he would come onto my show or not. Finally, about 8 minutes later I told him I would have to leave in a minute and go into the air-studio to prepare for my show. Michael then began raising his voice at me, demanding that I stay in his office. As I started toward the door, Michael began yelling violently and at full intensity, insisting that I could not leave the room. I headed immediately for the air studio, sat down, put on the headphones and was trying to get my show together, when I saw Michael come into the studio, entering in a menacing and intense way. I then turned on the mike. A few seconds later Michael turned off the transmitter. I don't remember precisely what I said before Michael turned off the mike, nor do I know exactly how much went over the air.

I do know that I pulled out my Union Card, and told Michael I had back-up. I told him that people were coming to be there with me on the show. I also told him that some listeners would know that something was wrong and might come up to the station. We were at an impasse. I also took two phone calls from listeners who wanted to know where their Democracy Now! was. I told them exactly what was going on. As well, I tried to get the transmitter back on, which did not work. I did not prevent Michael from turning on the transmitter in any way, but I did at first refuse to relinquish my seat. Michael appeared to be uncertain what to do. I think he thought about it and eventually decided to turn the transmitter back on.

Personally, I am very concerned about

(Continued page 15)

Evergreen Sells Out

by Brian Frank

Shocking the student worker/owners of the Branch and most everyone else in the Evergreen community, Evergreen's administration officially announced today that it plans to grant full management of one of Evergreen's only student run businesses to Sodexho-Marriott - Ending eleven years of student management of this business. Having met with the student/owners immediately following the news I would charactherize they're responce as livid with rage. These students were completely out of the decision making process from the beginning, repeated being told that there was only a small chance of this happening, and not to concern themselves with it. The news comes after 2 months of complete silence from the administration on the matter. The students will now be under the adminstration of Sodexho-Marriott, a company with a long history of labor abuses and with ties to the private prison industry.

To make a bad situation worse, the food service dtf has indicated that it has rejected student demands to include special pro-union/pro-labor provisions to the food service contract. According to Chuck McKinney, director of housing, the adminstration did not feel that workers rights to were pins or other paraphenelia expressing their feelings on working conditions, union organzing, or other matters was worth putting in the contract. Worse, the school did put language in the contract insisting on worker's rights to organize with out "card-checks" that is, outside of the framework set up by the National Labor Relation Board - in otherwords all Union activities must be regestered with the feds, a process that can take years to initiate.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

E-mail the DTF Members and demand the absolute strongest pro-union language including:

1. **NO CARD CHECKS**, Right to organizing independent unions by majority vote of workers
2. **Right to wear pins, etc.** expressing any and all opinions.
3. Demand the reversal of the decision or at least that the food service contract insist apon keeping the autonomous management of the **student-run business**!

K. Haskett <haskettk@evergreen.edu>
Becky Kjer <kjerb@evergreen.edu>
Linda Kellogg <kelloggl@evergreen.edu>
Chuck McKinney <mckinnec@evergreen.edu>
Steve Trotter <trotters@evergreen.edu>
P. Kapin <kapinp@evergreen.edu>

Also:

1. Forward this to everyone you know
2. Attend the Evergreen townmeeting: **AUGUST 9th, 12pm in the Library Lobby**
3. Learn more about marriott - contact me <brifra2@hotmail.com> for extensive documentation on the problems with Marriott.
4. Get involved with other folks working on this campaign: <stopmarriott@hotmail.com>

ChildrenFirst! Vigil

by Carrie Day

I am excited to announce that on **August 22nd**, the fourth anniversary of the signing of the welfare deform bill, at **3pm in Olympia's Sylvester Park**, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition is sponsoring an overnight tent city vigil to shine light on the problems of Welfare Reform and Washington States WorkFirst program. **We are calling this event ChildrenFirst!** During daylight hours some of the planned events will be "Panhandling for Solutions", free dinner from Food Not Bombs, live music, and hopefully guest speakers. We hope to get the media's attention with cardboard "houses" (large cardboard boxes representing homelessness), signs, banners and panhandlers spread about the city with their stories of WorkFirst and Welfare hardships. Instead of asking for money panhandlers will ask for solutions. Not only will this get the attention of the Media but will educate the public to the issues we face while on public assistance.

How can you get involved?

- ***Come to this event prepared to stay the night!** Bring your tent (or cardboard box), sleeping bag, toothbrush and flashlight. The more bodies at the park the larger the impact we will have in the media to get our message across. *Our flashlights will be used to shine light on Welfare Reform during this vigil.*
- ***Outreach.** Let women, children and families you know who are affected by welfare reform to come to this event. Go to CSO, food banks, and other community areas to help spread the word.
- ***Street Theater.** If you have any ideas or would like to participate in street theater let us know. *Again, there is power in numbers and we have the power if we organize and you participate.*
- ***Childcare providers.** We need you to look after the little ones so the adults can work on effectively getting our message out that kids are the ones who should come first, not work. Bring games, toys and art supplies to keep them happy and safe.
- *We need somebody to **co-ordinate tent city** as people arrive.
- *We need people on shifts for overnight **safety watch.**
- ***First Aid duty** in case someone gets a skinned knee or sliver.
- ***Clean up crew** the morning after.
- *I am sure there will be **other areas** for you to help during this event so please get involved in any way you can.

WROC's next Planning and Organizing meeting is August 7th. We need you there with your ideas and volunteering contributions.

We have also planned a meeting for this event on **August 10th at 5:30pm.** Phone number is 570-2200 for info. location & directions. Feel free to call me at anytime regarding the Aug. 22nd event.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it.)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Letters, briefs, etc.

Kaiser Steelworker Update

Dear Editor,

To bring you up on the current status of the steelworkers struggle with Kaiser Aluminum I do have some good news. First the federal government, NLRB, has determined the lockout to be illegal and has charged Kaiser with unfair labor practices the hearing is scheduled for November 13 this year. Second the union membership has ratified a process that will fast track a process that will produce a contract no later than September 30, 2000. As of the date of ratification the union membership was reinstated health benefits.

Unfortunately all of the pot lines at Tacoma and several at Meade have been shut down do to high electric costs brought about by Kaiser opting to buy some of their power from the risky spot market. This creates a problem for some employees as the minute the contract is signed they will be laid off with no unemployment compensation. The Steelworkers union is working to correct this through negotiations. Unfortunately SB 6368 did not pass and Kaiser's lobbying paid off for them. Susan Ashe's, (Kaiser lobbyist), remarks that there was no reason to pass SB 6368 because the steelworkers would be back to work mid April proved wrong and several thousand Washington families suffered for it. Hopefully Washington state will adopt an unfair labor practice law and change the existing unemployment compensation laws regarding lockouts to prevent so much suffering by Washington families. Permanent damage was done to the older steelworkers who won't have enough time to recuperate the losses before they retire and may now have to work longer to get there. If there is anything good that came of this it is the fact that being away from the smelters will probably allow a longer life do to a cleansing of the respiratory system. Hopefully something can be done for the steelworkers who will be laid off do to pot line shut downs, they had to use their unemployment benefits to fight an illegal lockout.

Derek Wolf Knudsen
http://www.hometown.aol.com/realmbelli/myhomepage/profile.html

Lori Berenson Event

Speaking Tour for Lori Berenson: Political Prisoner in Peru, Comes to Olympia for LadyFest

Date: Wednesday, August 2nd
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Location: PRAXIS Community Space, located in downtown Olympia between 4th Ave and State.

On Wednesday, August 2, 2000 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, PRAXIS, a community collective will host Kristen Gardner and Gail Taylor who will speak about the case of Lori Berenson, an American citizen and human rights activist who has spent over four years unjustly imprisoned in Peru on political charges.

Gail Taylor, National Coordinator of the Committee to Free Lori Berenson in Washington DC and Kristen Gardner, Lori's college roommate, will discuss her case and the international economic and political conditions that have led to her unlawful incarceration. They are speaking throughout Washington and Oregon this week to bring attention to

(Continued page 11)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, August 18th

Proofreading Potluck

Monday, August 21st
6pm in Priest Point Park
(meet by the swings)

Everyone Welcome!

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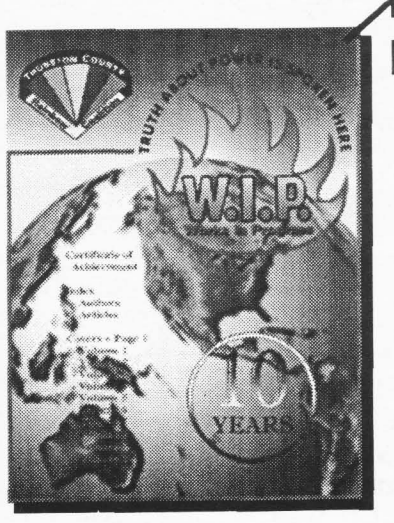
☐ WIP Flame LogoT-Shirt . . . $15 each; # _____ size(s)_____
☐ WIP 10-year Retrospective Scrapbook of Covers + Page One . . . $15 each
☐ Catalog/Index Listing...$1; back issues...$1/each (while supplies last)



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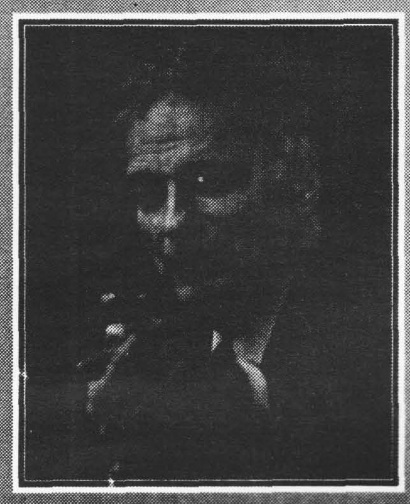
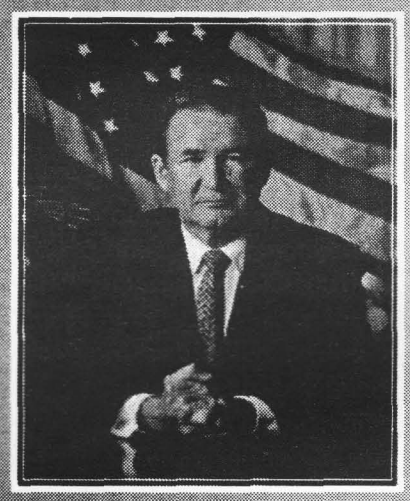
AUGUST 2000

Still Locked Out
Corporate Presidential Debates

Gore and Bush are hiding behind the Commission's outlandish and unfair set of rules to avoid the issues that would be raised if the Green and Reform parties were allowed in the debates. **Nader**





This is nothing but a Beltway conspiracy by the two Establishment parties to corner the market forever on the presidency of the United States. **Buchanan**

A Zogby nationwide poll (April 2000) "showed that both potential Third Party candidates should be allowed to debate if they become their party's official candidate for the presidency and regardless of whether they met a debate committee mandate of having at least 15% support in major polls."

Commision on Presidential Debates, 1200 New Hampshire, NW, Suite 445, Washington, DC 20036
CPD comment website: www.debates.org/pages/general_con.html

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Sun Microsystems, Yahoo, 3Com, and other businesses are helping pay for the fall debates...." Jill Zuckman, Boston Globe		**1** **1999**: The White House claims the welfare-to-work program is a success: 35% are now working or are being trained for work	**2** **1999**: Federal judge halts timber sales, says government violated NW Forest Plan by failing to properly survey for threatened species	**3** **1997** - UPS employees goes on strike across nation **1998**: Talks between Iraq and UN on Iraqi weaponry break down	**4** **1999**: NJ Supreme Court rules the ouster of a gay Scout leader was illegal under the state's anti-discrimination law	**5** **1999**: WA state report shows imports edge out exports in boost ing state's economy; 2-way trade grew to $104 billion in '98
6 **1999**: Reactor from decommissioned Trojan Nuclear Plant is loaded onto barge for 270-mile Columbia River trip to Hanford	**7** **1999**: US analysts claim Iraq is probably rebuilding its weapons though White House says there is no evidence of such activity	**8** **1925**: 1000s of KKK march down Pennsylvania Avenue **1996**: Janet Reno announces a decline in violent juvenile crime	**9** **1999**: Long Lake residents asked County Commissioners to help prevent future spraying of herbicides	**10** **1999**: Buford Furrow wounds five at a Jewish community center in LA and killed a Filipino-American postal worker	**11** **1997**: Clinton uses the line-item veto **1999**: Trojan reactor lowered into 45 foot deep trench on Hanford Nuclear Reservation	**12** **1997**: AFL-CIO will help w/ strike pay to striking UPS workers **1999**: Mount Rainier National Park celebrates its centennial
13 **1831**: Nat Turner leads Virginia slave revolt **1945**: 35 Jews sacrifice their lives to blow up Nazi rubber plant in Silesia	**14** **1998**: Gallup Poll: half say allegations against Clinton should be taken seriously **1999**: GW Bush wins Iowa straw poll	**15** **1975**: Joanne Little acquitted of murder **1995**: Justice Department agrees to pay $3.1 million to white separatist Randy Weaver	**16** **1999**: NAACP study claims half of young adults say racial separation okay **1999**: L. Alexander quits GOP pres. race	**17** **1999**: 7.4 earthquake in Turkey kills thousands and injures many thousands more a few hours before dawn; many were still in their beds	**18** **1999**: GW Bush won't answer questions about allegations he has used drugs, dismissing such rumors as "ridiculous and absurd"	**19** **1996:** Ralph Nader accepts Green Party nomination for president, a "progressive alternative" to the two-party system
20 **1999**: Peregrine falcon is taken off the endangered species list **1999**: Turkey quake numbers rising; 10,000 dead, 35,000 injured	**21** **1971**: George Jackson killed, shot in the back **1999**: Poll shows 59% of voters support Initiative 695 cutting cost of vehicle license tabs	**22** **1996**: Clinton signs welfare reform bill **1999**: Study reports welfare reform has driven poorest families deeper into poverty	**23** **1999**: Washington state Court of Appeals rules that Olympia cannot try to collect impact fees outside of Olympia city limits	**24** **1999**: Turkey quake death toll now 12,514 **1999**: Judge allows Shoalwater to keep casino w/ slot machines open while appealing	**25** **1916**: National Park Service established **1999**: The Puget Sound Restoration Fund seeds 28,000 baby Olympia oysters in South Sound	**26** **1999**: Nisqually Valley residents oppose propose asphalt plant **1999**: 36,000 Norplant victims receive $50 million settlement
27 **1949**: Eight people injured when a hostile anti-Communist mob breaks up a Paul Robeson concert outside of Peekskill, NY	**28** **1999**: Arsonists burn two businesses in Lacey: the Chinese Gardens restaurant and former Window Decorators store	**29** **1999**: Olympic Pipe Line Co. spills 3,368 gallons of car gasoline and higher octane aviation gas at a transfer station in Renton	**30** **1999**: Dept of Ecology says Strait of Juan de Fuca lacks reliable system for rescuing ships, is vulnerable to accidents and oil spills	**31** **1970**: Philadelphia cops raid three Black Panther centers **1999**: WA state SAT scores top national average	**JULY** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**SEPTEMBER** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Kanaka Maoli Uninformed on Fatal Akaka Recognition Bill

Kekuni Blaisdell

The Kanaka Maoli people of Ka Pae'aina (Hawai'i) are in danger of having their permanent political status determined for them by the US government. This violation of their inherent sovereignty and fundamental right of self-determination is occurring without their initiation, input or informed consent.

This ominous process, which created Hawai'i Senator Daniel Akaka's "Recognition Bill," was triggered on February 23, 2000, in a decision made 4,000 miles eastward by the US colonizer in Washington, DC. On that date, the US Supreme Court ruled, by a majority of 5 to 4 justices in the Rice v. Cayetano case, that the State of Hawai'i 1978 law allowing only Kanaka Maoli to vote for trustees of the State Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) was unconstitutional because it was based on race.

Thus, landless Kanaka Maoli , who now comprise only 20% of the 1.2 million population of their homeland of Ka Pae'aina, are, under US law, considered racist for exercising limited self-governance as wards under control of the State in their homeland.

Over-ruled were two of the minority Supreme Court justices who argued that Kanaka Maoli were analogous to American Indians who have a special political status, a unique ward-guardian trust relationship, with the US. Therefore, Kanaka Maoli, as with Indians, have an exclusive right to vote for representatives to their tribal governments under US Federal Indian Control Law.

The suit had been initiated by Harold Rice, a wealthy, white, missionary-descendant rancher. On February 27, four days after release of the high court's decision, Rice's attorney publicly vowed to continue lawsuits until all entitlements, special benefits and preferences for Kanaka Maoli are eliminated.

The defendant in the suit was the State of Hawai'i represented by Governor Ben Cayetano, an attorney of Filipino ancestry and former long-time Democratic Party legislator. The US solicitor general, the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, OHA and other colonial establishment Kanaka Maoli submitted pro-Cayetano/OHA and anti-Rice briefs.

However, when the pro-Rice decision was revealed in February, Cayetano promptly announced that he would replace the elected current Kanaka Maoli OHA trustees since their election by only Kanaka Maoli voters had been decreed unconstitutional.

The OHA trustees refused to resign and sought clarification from the State Supreme Court on their status. OHA also pursued State legislation allowing OHA to become a private trust corporation to manage its assets.

OHA assets include a Wall Street investment portfolio of $400 million resulting from a 1990 settlement with the State, whereby OHA receives 20% of revenues from some Hawaiian Kingdom lands. These Crown and government lands were seized by white usurpers supported by the US armed invasion of 1893. Ceded to the US at the time of the 1898 unlawful annexation without a treaty, these lands were then transferred by the US to the State as part of the 1959 US fraudulent Statehood process.

At a March 29, 2000 forum at the University of Hawai'i, pro-independence Kanaka Maoli denounced both the Rice and Cayetano positions. The pro-Rice decision confirms that US colonialism with anti-Kanaka Maoli racism lives on. Anti-Kanaka Maoli racism is also evident in the out-voted minority position. This position, supported by the State of Hawai'i, OHA, the US solicitor general and the Hawai'i Congressional delegation, is that we Kanaka Maoli are "Native Americans" and that this subordinate status should be affirmed by US Congressional "federal recognition."

Pro-independence Kanaka Maoli strategy continues to be: expose the truth and generate peoples' support at home and abroad.

Fearful that all current US Federal health, education, housing and other social programs for Kanaka Maoli would be attacked by the conservative Republican-dominated US Supreme Court and/or the current Republican majority in the US Congress, Kanaka Maoli US Senator Daniel Akaka announced that he and the other three non-Kanaka Maoli members of the Hawai'i Congressional Delegation, Sen. Daniel Inouye, Rep. Patsy Mink and Rep. Neil Abercrombie, had formed a "Native Hawaiian Task Force." This body, representing the people of Hawai'i and the US government, Akaka said, would prepare legislation to protect US federally-funded programs for Kanaka Maoli by declaring Kanaka Maoli indigenous to the US. Thus, it was reasoned, Kanaka Maoli have a legal, political and trust relationship to the US similar to that of "other Native Americans," the American Indians and Alaska Natives.

On April 3, the Akaka Task Force created five working groups: a 25-member Native Hawaiian Community Working Group, mainly of persons associated with federally-funded Kanaka Maoli programs; a State of Hawai'i Working Group; a White House and Federal Officials Working Group; a US Congressional Members and Caucuses Working Group; and a Native American Community and Constitutional Scholars Working Group.

Akaka also announced that this legislation would be introduced in late June with hearings and passage by the current US Congress before adjournment in October for the fall general elections. In this plan, US President William Clinton would sign the bill into law before he leaves office in January 2001. The Akaka strategy is to enact the new legislation before a potentially less sympathetic US congress and president assume power.

Protests stepped up from Kanaka Maoli. On May 31, pro-independence Kanaka Maoli Soli Niheu, Nalani Minton, William Amona, Kekuni Blaisdell and Kanaka Maoli supporter Marion Kelly met with Sen. Akaka in his office. The protestors cited the senator's undemocratic draft legislation process and the fatal flaws in his proposed bill. They urged Akaka to adhere to acknowledgements in his 1993 Apology Resolution, such as US suppression of our Kanaka Maoli inherent sovereignty and right to self-determination, and the importance, under Article VI of the US Constitution, for the US to abide by treaties and international law, such as restitution, as "the supreme law of the land." Akaka's response was only a "thank you, I'll review these papers" and an enigmatic smile.

Poll results in the June 1 colonial daily newspaper, The Honolulu Advertiser, revealed that 72% of telephone respondents favored "creation of a sovereign Hawaiian nation." Of these, 48% were for "a nation-within-a-nation" and 37% for "an independent Kanaka Maoli nation," while 78% supported "another model that Hawaiians create for themselves if given enough time."

On June 25, at the 'Iolani Palace grounds in Honolulu, American Indian leader Russell Means and attorney Glenn Morris, Colorado Indian prosecutor advocate in the 1993 Kanaka Maoli Tribunal, spoke. Means called US federal recognition of indigenous peoples "American Apartheid." He said that the US Department of Interior holding Kanaka Maoli "lands in trust" means the lands will inevitably disappear. The US Constitution will not protect Kanaka Maoli for they will no longer have rights. Decisions will be made by a puppet government. US Government programs will become the norm. Kanaka Maoli spirituality will be regulated by the US Department of Justice.

Glenn Morris asked: "Who has recognized the US to recognize any people?" He added that the US fraudulently assumes authority and legitimacy. The US invades our land, destroys our people and political, economic and social systems. The US then imposes the same system of destruction and exploitation in the name of "self-government," and even "self-determination," while forcing us into deeper, dependency-driven neo-colonialism.

Undaunted by criticism, Akaka's second draft legislation was faxed to the press on July 3, but not distributed to the Kanaka Maoli people. Akaka's office announced that the revised final bill is to be introduced to the US Congress in mid-July, and is scheduled for Ka Pae'aina hearings August 28 to September 1. Reports from the Working Groups have not been revealed to the public. In spite of the bill's and news' near-blackout, the legislation has been endorsed by the State's OHA and the colonial establishment's daily press.

From the onset, pro-independence Kanaka Maoli have opposed three main aspects of Akaka's legislation: (1) The intent is to reduce Kanaka Maoli to American Indian status, purportedly to save meagerly funded federal Kanaka Maoli programs that promote colonial dependency. This intent is linked with the US's long-range policy to maintain US nuclearism, military occupation and economic exploitation of Kanaka Maoli Ka Pae'aina in order to ensure US control of the Pacific Basin and Rim as essential to US globalization policy. (2) The process is to predetermine a permanent subservient Kanaka Maoli political relationship to the US in violation of Kanaka Maoli inherent sovereignty and right to a true and full self-determination process, based on Kanaka Maoli cultural traditions, and under impartial international oversight. (3) The bill's content destroys Kanaka Maoli as a distinct people and nation with their own territory, cosmology, history, culture, language and future.

Pro-independence Kanaka Maoli strategy continues to be: expose the truth and generate peoples' support at home and abroad by appealing to our Kanaka Maoli traditional spiritual and cultural laws, such as malama pono—caring for all as integral parts of our sacred, timeless and renewing, living environment. This is the Kanaka Maoli alternative to Western global domination, exploitation and subjugation.

Hawai'i - Independent & Sovereign <info@hawaii-nation.org> or <http://hawaii-nation.org> ◆

Vic's Pizzeria

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Up Front

Reader Response: Summer 2000

Jerome Johnson

Well, y'all, it's reader response time. As you know, every so often I like to take a break and reply to questions from readers. We'll probably go back to the regular format next month, when I can write about the Republican convention.

And speaking of politics, I heard Gore on CNN today, pandering to the AFL-CIO. It was so stilted and scripted that I couldn't stand it, and my tolerance is high—I made it all the way through Jesse Helms' tantrum at the UN a few months ago. I had to switch back to CNN and escape to the computer, and write this. And now...

What do you think of the Elian Gonzalez case?

Are you kidding? This is a no-brainer. Elian should have been returned to his father's care immediately—within a week of release from the hospital. I saw the raid happen live on TV—it was one of those rare times when I caught it right away. It was traumatic—but very fast and professionally done. And the relatives had plenty of chance to avoid it. Having said that, I would have used a more subtle approach. Had I been Reno, I would have put the SWAT team on standby and had plainclothes agents come to the door.

It was sickening to hear politicians pandering so nakedly to the most strident voices in the Cuban exile community. You'd think that Gore would be smart enough to know that if he pandered as he did, everyone would recognize it as pandering, and it's even worse because those people won't vote for him anyway. If I can see it, so can they, and everyone's had enough bullshit.

What about the recent Philadelphia police beating case?

Well, I saw the videotape. The PPD's excuse don't make no smoke for me—there was no reason for those officers to beat Jones that way. They had him disarmed and under control. The argument that they were "naturally enraged" doesn't work. That's what training and discipline are supposed to control. That's why we send cops to academies, to be trained to handle situations like this without excessive force. Yes, Jones was a bad guy—but bad guys, like the rest of us, still have a few shreds of rights left. One of them is to be taken safely into custody, regardless of the alleged offense(s).

And the David Walker case in Seattle?

I saw that tape too, and I don't agree that Walker should have been fatally shot—if shot at all.

Louima and Diallo and Central Park wilding in New York, the Ramparts case in Los Angeles, Miami mayors ordering their police not to assist the Feds. In Texas, Dubya's Death Row is compassionate because he believes every case to be duly and swiftly processed, then automatically approved by eight people who owe him their jobs.

What about the current Camp David summit?

If the Israelis and Palestinians make peace, they'll do it for themselves, not for Slick Willie and his "legacy". And I think it'll take more time and effort than he's willing to invest. He should have stayed at Camp David and let Gore fly to Japan. That would've even given Gore a chance to "look presidential", and underlined Clinton's commitment. Carter took two weeks with Begin and Sadat—but then, Clinton ain't Carter.

What about the Reynard Johnson death in Mississippi?

I don't know. I don't have enough information yet. I pray to God it wasn't a lynching.

Did you hear Minister Farrakhan's speech to the National Press Club?

YES. I was very surprised and touched by his humility and grace. He is definitely a different, more mature man. I think he was sincere in his gratitude to everyone's support. I really liked the way he emphasized health and the need for checkups. Because of what Farrakhan said, and the way he said it, a lot of lives and families are going to be saved. Macho guys who brushed off spouses, friends, loved ones and public service announcements made appointments all over the country.

Well, that's it for now, folks. Next time, it'll be after the elephants roar—in Philadelphia.

In the Solomon Islands, civil war continues.

In the Fijis, tension remains high.

In Mexico, Vicente Fox, a former Coca-Cola executive, takes office.

And in Olympia, a community builds strong opposition to high-rise overdevelopment of our still-beautiful waterfront. ◆

If the Israelis and Palestinians make peace, they'll do it for themselves, not for Slick Willie and his "legacy".

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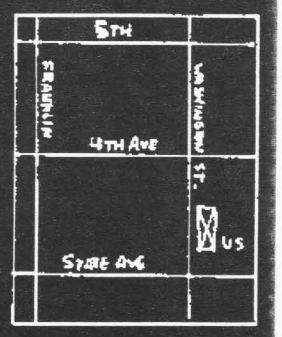

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Let the Games Begin

Ron Jacobs

This year the Olympics take place in Sydney, Australia. As anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of British colonial history knows, Australia began as a penal colony for the British Empire. To make room for its outcasts, Britain attempted to clear the land of its inhabitants, human and otherwise. Just as the indigenous Americans were slaughtered and pushed from their lands, so were the aboriginal peoples on the fifth continent. Likewise, many of those who survived the various assaults on their lands and people were "resettled" and their children were stolen. Once stolen, these innocents were stripped of their cultural identity via adoption and the white man's educational system, creating what Aboriginals now call the stolen generation.

Over time, a movement demanding an apology and reparations to survivors of this crime against humanity has gathered steam in Australia. The members of the movement hope to use the Olympics as a forum for redress of their grievances-a truly uphill struggle given the general attitude of many in the Australian government who still don't understand the effects of their predecessors' policy and absolutely refuse to apologize. As a more cosmic justice would have it, however, one of Australia's most popular athletes, Cathy Freeman, is not only an Aboriginal, she is also a strong supporter of the movement calling for justice to the aboriginal peoples. Although Aboriginal activists have encouraged her to stay out of the developing fray, she recently spoke out, saying in an interview that appeared in the British paper the Sunday Telegraph: "I was so angry because they were denying they (the Australian government) had done anything wrong, denying that a whole generation was stolen." The calls for an apology and reparations are reminiscent of similar calls in this country for an apology and reparations to the descendants of those enslaved by the whites not so many generations ago. Likewise, the use of the Olympics as a forum for redress are reminiscent of the protest by African and African-American athletes before and during the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

The history of black athletes in white America reflects the history of African-Americans in general. Before the integration of pro sports, blacks had their own leagues in baseball and basketball. The Negro Baseball Leagues featured some of the best players in the sport and when the major leagues finally began to integrate, the Negro Leagues faded as black players were hired by teams in the majors. Boxing was the first sport to be infiltrated by blacks—although it too had its own association until the early 1900s. Jack Johnson was the Black boxing champion when he met the white boxing champion Tommy Burns in 1908 and beat him.

The discrimination against African-American athletes was even worse in college athletics. Not only were black athletes prevented from attending white colleges, they did not compete against their athletic teams very often either. However, the sixties changed that. Along with integration came the first wave of African-American athletes playing for previously all-white college teams. Many of these athletes, like today, were not courted for their academic ability, but only for their athletic ability. Still, however, these young men did not get any full scholarships—these were reserved for white athletes. Also like today, graduation was not given much priority by the players' coaches or respective athletic departments. Blacks were forbidden from joining fraternities, subject to racist remarks and acts by fellow students and teammates, and due to their very small numbers, pretty much isolated. As Harry Edwards wrote in his book, The Revolt of the Black Athlete: "The only difference between the black man shining shoes in the ghetto and the black sprinter is that the shoeshine man is a nigger and the sprinter is a fast nigger."

As part of an ongoing struggle for just treatment in US collegiate and other amateur competition, African American athletes and their supporters begin to consider a boycott of the 1968 Olympics under the auspices of a new organization called the Olympic Project for Human Rights. World-class runner Tommie Smith was quoted after some track and field trials early that year in Japan as stating that "there may be a boycott" when asked by a Japanese reporter

The Olympic protest was one of the decade's simplest and most effective protests. The movement of black student athletes changed the world of black athletes in many ways.

Later that spring, Black students and athletes at San Jose State asked for better treatment. With the tutelage and complete support of Professor Harry Edwards (also an African-American), they met with the dean of students who told them to go away since he didn't have time to deal with such a small number of students (70 out of a total enrollment of 5000). With this rejection, the students began to plan for a rally on the first day of classes the next fall. The rally began with only 135 students: 100 or so whites and 35 or so blacks, but by noon close to 700 were in attendance including faculty and staff. The demands of the rally were surprisingly mild: Public deliberation of all problems and proposed solutions relevant to the situation of minority gorups at SJS. Public pledges that no housing of any kind, including frats and sororities, will be open to all students wishing to live there. That all social and political organizations be open to all students and that this be proven by spring 1968. That all athletic recruits be treated the same in the recruiting process. That the athletic dept. disassociate itself from racist fraternities That the college provide tutoring to all those who desire it. That the student government be representative of all students, not just a corrupt group of racists. There was no response, so the first football game of the 1967 season was boycotted and picketed by black players and their supporters.

On November 22 and 23rd, a national Black Youth Conference was held in Los Angeles—several college athletes attended and the boycott was discussed. UCLA basketball player Kareem Abdul Jabbar (who was still going by the name his parents had given him, Lew Alcindor) told why he supported the boycott: Everybody knows me. I'm the big basketball star, the weekend hero, everybody's All-American. Well, last summer I was almost killed by a racist cop shooting at a black cat in Harlem. He was shooting on the street—where masses of black people were standing around or just taking a walk. After all, we were just niggers. I found out last summer that we don't catch hell because we aren't basketball stars or don't have money. We catch hell because we are black. Somewhere each of us has got to make a stand against this kind of thing. This is how I make my stand—using what I have. And I take my stand here.

In the weeks following the conference, Tommie Smith made public the contents of some of the hate mail he had been receiving for his comments regarding the Olympic boycott. In the meantime, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) invited the apartheid sports teams of South Africa to the 1968 Olympics, prompting an immediate outcry and an expansion of the boycott call to include most of the African nations, all of the communist nations, and many non-aligned countries. Simultaneously, it was revealed in the press that Avery Brundage, the head of the IOC, was a part owner of a country club that forbade membership to Jews and blacks. Eventually, the IOC succumbed to the ever-growing international pressure and rescinded its invitation to South Africa.

The American athletes vowed to continue the boycott, but it eventually fell apart—people were thinking of their careers and the harassment and intimidation was reaching the point where some of the athletes were receiving threats to their lives and the lives of their loved ones. An alternative path was decided on: no African-American athlete would take the victory stand when they won. Only weeks before the Olympics began, Mexican students took over the National University, supported by thousands of their countrymen and women. On October 2, ten days before the Games opened, Mexican security forces opened fire on a rally in the La Plaza de las Tres Culturas at Tlatelolco in Mexico City, killing hundreds. Although the harassment and intimidation of athletes supporting the boycott movement was not even close to the massacre of the students and their supporters, the intention was the same—to stifle protest. The Olympics almost didn't take place.

On the first day of the competition two African American runners, Jim Hines and Charles Greene, won the 100-meter dash. When the two sprinters took the victory stand, neither man did anything but stand at attention as they received their medals while the US flag was raised. Then came the 200-meter dash. Tommie Smith took the gold, John Carlos the bronze. Although they had been intimidated and harassed like the other athletes, when the US flag began rising up the flagpole and the anthem played, the

Colorlines, 1998

two men bowed their heads and raised their black-gloved fists in a black power salute. The silver medalist was a runner from Australia named Peter Norman who wore the patch of the Olympic Committee for Human Rights (OCHR-sponsor of the boycott movement) in solidarity with Smith and Carlos.

Within hours, the two African American men were expelled from the Olympic Village and were stripped of their medals. This was one of the decade's simplest and most effective protests. As the games continued, other athletes from a number of nations protested the treatment of the two in various ways. The results of the Olympic protest and the movement of black student athletes changed the world of black athletes in many ways, yet much remains to be resolved. It's somewhat ironic, although not necessarily surprising that, as African American athletes make more and more money, their solidarity with one another and with the rest of the African-American community seems to diminish.

What were white student and amateur athletes doing? Well, for the most part, nothing. However there were a few individuals who worked with the OCHR and spoke out against the war and racism they saw on their campuses. When they did, they were often benched or kicked off the team. By 1970, however, these few individuals were joined by whole teams and, in some cases (like UC Berkeley) virtually the entire student athlete population. After Nixon invaded Cambodia and many of the nation's colleges and high schools went on strike, student athletes at UC Berkeley voted to protest en masse against the invasion. Then, following the murders of students at Kent and Jackson State later that spring, some teams cancelled workouts, while most wore black armbands during competitions and issued statements supporting the student strike as it spread across the land. In the Ivy Leagues, members of all eight schools' track and field teams issued a strong statement denouncing the war and the killings of students and the repression of the black liberation movement. The statement caused the Army and Navy teams to withdraw from the big springtime event.

By the way, people are currently trying to start a new movement among athletes. I recently received an email talking about a conference organized by Sherman Teichman and his 30 students at Tufts University in Massachusetts, focusing on "Global Games: Sports, Politics and Society." Teichman hopes to create enough momentum to build what he was informally calling "Athletes for Social Responsibility," a new kind of organization for the 21st century to challenge the dominant values and politics of sports. ◆

Six Initiatives for November:

A Preliminary Rundown

Jeff Sowers

July 7th was the deadline for initiative proponents to turn in the needed 179,248 signatures required to get on the November ballot. Of the more than 40 initiatives that had been approved for circulation, it looks like six made it, pending the final tally of the Secretary of State. Of these six, three are about education, two taxes, and one is about steel jawed animal traps.

To help get your mind geared up for this years campaign season, here is a quick run down of what you will likely be facing on this years November ballot.

☑ I-713 would make it a crime to capture an animal with a steel-jawed leghold trap, neck snare, or other body gripping trap, or buy or sell furs trapped in this manner. It would also be a crime to poison any animal using sodium fluoroacetate or sodium cyanide. "Studies reveal that one to ten non-target victims—including protected species such as eagles, kit foxes, fishers, and wolverines, as well as family pets—are caught for every target species caught in a trap. Trappers typically throw away these so-called trash animals. These devices are like land mines for wildlife." To find out more visit the Human Society's website at www.hsus.org.

☒ I-722, sponsored Tim Eyman and company, is the so-called "Son of I-695." This Initiative would repeal all tax and fee increases approved since I-695 qualified for the ballot, as well as limit future property taxes increases to 2% annually. When progressives sneer at these complex tax revolt initiatives they should keep in mind that much of taxpayer money is given away in various corporate welfare and developer subsidy schemes. Thus, when the average voter believes that government is uselessly wasting millions of tax dollars, they are correct. For example, Thurston County local governments are financing the LOTT sewage treatment expansion project with a rate increase, a large part of which amounts to a handout to developers who don't want to pay the full cost of their developments (as opposed to providing subsidies for those who may legitimately need it, like low income renters). I-722 would overturn this rate increase, and possibly put the brakes on the LOTT project. On the other hand, tax-revolt initiatives generally provoke some sort of retribution from representatives. This usually comes in the form of reduced funding for needed social services, such as schools and public transportation.

☑ I-728 requires school districts to reduce class sizes, extend learning programs, expand teacher training, and construct facilities. It is funded by re-directing lottery proceeds, existing property taxes, and budget reserves. This initiative is a good example of how the law can be used to re-direct state monies toward progressive causes the public supports, and avoid raising taxes, which the public is usually reluctant to do. Maybe similar ways of shifting corporate and developer welfare money to public transportation, day care, low income housing, and other good causes the public supports can be devised.

☑ I-729 is the "charter school" initiative. It would allow school districts and public universities to sponsor charter public schools. The schools would be operated independently of school districts, and would be open to all students. This is similar to measures that have passed in California and Oregon. Don't confuse this one with the "voucher initiative" that Washington voters rejected several years ago. This will not allow public funding to go to religious schools, only for free and public education. To get an idea of the kinds of progressive educational opportunities this initiative makes possible check out the charter "democratic school" in Cottage Grove, Oregon at www.efn.org/~blue_mtn/. Microsoft billionaire Paul Allen provided crucial support for both I-728 and I-729. Thanks for the crumbs, Paul.

☑ I-732. Would provide annual cost-of-living adjustments to school employees based on the consumer price index. It's hard to argue against paying teachers and other public school employees better.

☒ Last, and definitely least, is I-745, another Tim Eyman initiative. It would require that 90 percent of all transportation funds go to roads, thereby reducing money for mass-transit and pedestrian projects. According to the NO I-745 website, "The 90% provision of I-745 represents a 12% increase for roads, which isn't much. At the same time, it represents a huge 50% cut in all the other programs." Obviously, this initiative could be devastating to public transportation. On the bright side, a poll commissioned by the World Wildlife fund found that 61% of the U.S. population supports shifting money away from building public highways to building public transportation systems such as new bus routes and commuter rail. Lets hope this, and an informed, vocal opposition, translates into a resounding defeat for I-745. Learn more at www.no745.org.

A notable disappointment was Health Care 2000's I-725. This initiative would have established a universal single-payer health care system in Washington State. Despite the failure to gather enough signatures this time around, it supporters vow to fight on.

Perhaps you were wondering just how hard it is to get 179,248 signatures in less than six months. You never know, maybe you'd like to sponsor your own initiative some day. The answer is that it is possible, but not easy, unless you're a billionaire like Paul Allen, or have the backing of a very large organization. Four of the initiatives that qualified had substantial funding bases and paid signature gatherers $1.00-$2.00 per signature (amounting to $200,000 to $400,000 just for the signatures.) The other two were volunteer efforts backed by enormous, well-established organizations. I-713 had the Humane Society, which boasts a membership of one in six Americans, and the Washington Education Association (teacher's union) sponsored I-732.

Perhaps in future years the signature requirements will be eased to make ballot access possible for smaller organizations and groups, which would be more in line with the original populist intentions of the initiative process. Those fearing too many ballot measures should keep in mind that many initiatives have majority public support behind them, and the state legislature could pass these initiatives themselves if they weren't in the pockets of the big corporations. ◆

3rd party candidate

McReynold Running for President

Drawing by Tristan Baurick

Tristan Baurick

At Yauger Park on June 27, amid the All-American backdrop of dusty summer afternoon baseball games, the Socialist candidate for the presidency made a stop in Olympia to rally support for his campaign and raise awareness of just what a Socialist is.

David McReynolds, a long time anti-war activist and leader of the War Resisters League, held forth at a picnic table surrounded by his Olympia supporters and a handful of curious folks interested in all sides of the 2000 presidential campaign.

Though turnout at this local rally was low, with less than a dozen people in attendance, a Seattle rally earlier in the week brought in enough signatures to give McReynolds confidence that his party will be on the Washington ballot for this November's election.

Already Florida, New York, New Jersey, Colorado and a growing number of other states will now have the e added choice of voting Socialist, among the usual stand-bys.

Despite a longtime American climate of distrust toward Socialism, unfounded linkages to Soviet Communism, Cold War politics, and the two party dominance of American political campaigns, the Socialists have been able to shake up American politics in the past.

Eugene Debs drew nearly 1 million votes as the Socialist party candidate in 1912. Debs pulled off the same feat in 1920 despite the fact he led his campaign from a jail cell, incarcerated for opposing the First World War.

During the last presidential campaign, in 1996, the Socialists showed a glimpse of building momentum when presidential nominee Mary Cal Hollis garnered 5,000 votes Ð the best turnout since Norman Thomas' 896,000 votes in 1932.

McReynolds intends to build on that momentum and take advantage of America's growing inclination towards 3rd party candidates.

Easy going, calm, and professor-like in his demeanor, 69 year old McReynolds spoke from experience when discussing politics with those gathered at his Olympia rally.

McReynolds has been a lifetime activist in movements for peace, nuclear de-armament, and gay rights. For 40 years McReynolds was a leader of the War Resisters League (WRL) and has traveled world-wide giving lectures on the peace movement. In 1968 McReynolds ran for Congress and in 1980 he made his first bid for the presidency as a Socialist.

In May 1999 McReynolds retired from his long held post with the WRL. At the dinner held in his honor McReynolds opted to use the opportunity before those gathered not to speak of the past, but about the present war raging in Yugoslavia.

Vehemently blasting Clinton and NATO's attempt to cloak the war as a humanitarian effort, McReynolds made clear in his speech that he was not retiring from activism or his lifelong commitment to peace.

Days later McReynolds accepted his nomination to run as the Socialist party's candidate during the 2000 presidential election.

McReynolds holds no illusions about his party's chances in this year's election, nor does he fear that his bid for the presidency could hurt for-running 3rd party candidate Ralph Nader's chances.

"I support Nader and what Nader's doing, but neither of us is going to win,"

McReynolds said in a conversation with those gathered at his rally.

With his chances and Nader's clearly

(Continued next page)

(Socialist, continued)

in mind, McReynolds says the main focus of his campaign is to use the opportunity to educate the American electorate as to what it is to be a Socialist.

"We're trying to validate the Socialist party. "Socialism" is not a bad word. I want to make it so people can say the "S-word", so they can say they are a liberal or a Socialist with pride," he said.

And what is Socialism?

For a one-sentence, sound-byte worthy definition, McReynolds offered: "In Socialism, if you work, you eat."

Socialism's goal is to focus public, private, and government efforts toward the common good through greater public control of resources, corporate business, and other aspects of the economy.

In setting Socialism apart from Communism, as it is often confused with, McReynolds points out that American Socialism, with its history stretching as far back as the late 1890s, is fundamentally democratic and non-dogmatic.

"We believe Socialism is not the only answer and, unlike Communism, all are entitled to their freedom," he said.

At its core the Socialist Party platform calls for:

· Socialization of health care · Public ownership of the banking and credit industry, as well as the eventual democratic public control of the "Fortune 500" · Increase of the minimum wage to no less than $12 an hour. · High, progressive tax rates on the wealthy and corporations. · An end to the Drug War, decriminalization of marijuana, and the treatment of addiction as a medical problem and not a criminal one. · Abolition of the death penalty · Expansion and greater funding for public transportation, including city-to-city train networks. · Defense of Affirmative Action · Improved educational opportunities and a tuition-free university education. · 50% cut in military spending and the closing of all overseas bases. · Abolition of the CIA · Greater use of renewable resources · Replacing of corporate farms with family centered, ecologically sound food production.

For more information on David McReynold's campaign, since you aren't going to hear about it on the evening news, log on to www.votesocialist.org or visit the Socialist Party's website at www.sp-usa.org.

Bush and Gore Make Me Wanna Ralph

MichaelMoore.com

To the Non-Voters of America

DISCLAIMER: If you are planning to vote for Al Gore in November, good for you. Don't let what I'm about to say change your mind because I've been told by all the experts that if you do change your mind based on what I'm about to say, George W. Bush might win the election and I certainly couldn't live with myself if that connoisseur of pharmaceuticals (the kind you snort up your nose or the kind you inject on death row) won, in part, because of a letter I spit out over the Internet.

So let's review — you like Gore, you vote for Gore. He's a decent guy. I met him last year at some benefit, he came up to me, big hug — whoa, this veep is no stiff, I thought — and thanked me for this and that. He even quoted lines from "The Awful Truth" - whoa, scary, I thought, what's he doing watching cable channels above 40 on the box...not much to do on this veep gig, eh?

I told him I admired what he did when he came home to America as a Vietnam Vet and spoke out against the war. That took a lot of courage, I said (his dad lost his Senate seat for being an early opponent of the war).

So, if Al Gore is your man, go for it. In fact, I insist on it, even if you are just throwing your vote away.

What I am about to say, though, is not intended for any Al Gore (or George W.) voters. If you are one, please click off now.

To Whom It May Concern:

I address this letter to the largest political party in the United States - the 55% of you in the voting public who are so disillusioned with politics and politicians, so sick and tired of all the broken promises, so disgusted with all the b.s. that you have absolutely no intention of voting in November.

You know who you are.

AND YOU ARE THE MAJORITY!

You rule. You are the Non-Voters, all 100 million of you!

Until now, you have been the subject of scorn and ridicule. You've been called apathetic, lazy, ignorant. Your actions have been viewed as unAmerican (I mean, what kind of citizen in the World's Greatest Democracy would not exercise his or her most important and cherished right - the right to freely choose your leader!).

Well, may I be the first to tell you that, not only are you NOT stupid and apathetic, I believe you are smarter than all the rest of us combined. YOU figured it out. YOU uncovered the scam. And YOU had the guts to no longer participate in a lie. Way to go! In 1996, you helped set the all-time American record for lowest turnout ever at a presidential election.

The reason you, the majority, no longer vote in America is because you, the majority, realize there is no real choice on the ballot. The "two" parties both do the bidding of the wealthy and agree with each other on 90% of the issues. They take 90% of their money from people who make over a hundred-grand a year, and then enact over 90% of the laws those contributors want passed.

On the ballot this November, you already know there is no contest. The independent Cook Political Report in D.C. last week announced that, out of 435 House seats up for election in November, there are only 47 seats where there is a "true race" between opponents - and, of those, only 14 seats have a race that is even "close" between the two candidates. 14 out of 435!

"Ninety-seven to ninety-nine percent of incumbents running for re-election will be returned to Congress in November," according to the Cook Report.

The Non-Voters already understand this. And they are not going to waste one iota of their day on November 7 driving

over to the chief lunatic but, damn it, that's what the people of Minnesota did - just to send a message! Wow. That took some guts.

So, for those of you who weren't going to vote anyway, well...what if you actually did? What if you drove down to that stinky gym where the little shell game behind the pretend curtains is taking place ("Pay no attention to the voters behind the curtains!"), walk in, sign in, take the ballot they hand you, and toss yourselves inside the booth like a political molotov cocktail.

Boom!

"You wanna tell me there's a choice here between two guys who both support NAFTA, WTO, the death penalty, the Cuban embargo, increased Pentagon spending, sleazy HMOs, greedy hospital chains, 250 million guns in our homes, more bombing of Iraq, the rich getting richer and the rest of us declaring bankruptcy?"

Boom!

Not me.

Boom!

I'm voting for Ralph Nader.

KAAAABOOM!

Friends, we are losing our democratic control over our country. We may have already lost it. I hope not. But in the last 20 years of the Reagan administration, Corporate America has merged and morphed itself to such an extent that just a handful of companies now call all the shots. They own Congress. They own us. In order to work for them, we have to take urine tests and lie detectors and wear bar codes on chains around our necks. In order to keep our jobs we have had to give up decent health care, the 8-hour day (and time with our kids), the security that we'll even have a job next year, and any unwillingness we may have to compete with a 14-year old Indonesian girl who gets a dollar a day.

And how frightening (and great) is it that the last place we can freely try to inform and communicate with each other is on the Web? Six companies run by six men control the majority of the news we now get from newspapers, television, radio and the Internet. One out of every two books is bought at a bookstore owned by one of only two companies. Is it safe in a "free society" to have the sources of our information and mass communication in the hands of just a few wealthy men who have a VESTED interest in keeping us as stupid as possible - or at least in keeping us thinking like them so that we vote for THEIR candidates?

I fear the cement on this new oligar-

(Continued next page)

We need to find a way where our vote screams "None of the Above!" A chance to act, like that Chinese guy in Tieneman Square, standing in front of a moving tank and stopping it in its path.

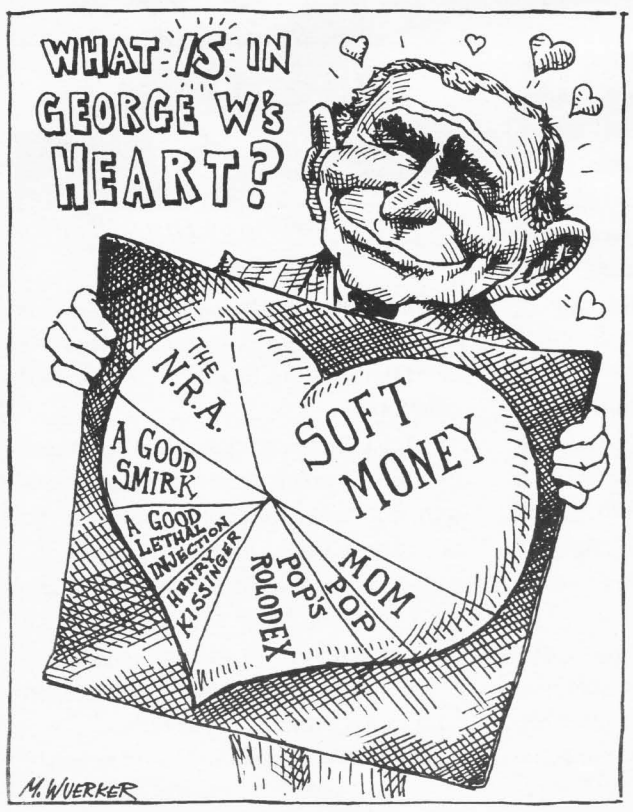
to some smelly elementary school gymnasium to participate in a Soviet-style election with no friggin' choice on the ballot.

So, to you brave voter-resisters, I say congratulations on your act of civic disobedience! I joined you this primary season and refused to go along with this charade of "choice." Nearly 80% of those of us of voting age - over 160 million Americans - staged a sit-in on our living room couches during this year's primaries. THAT is the great untold story of this election year. How much longer will the punditocracy be able to get away with dismissing this massive no-show as "a sign Americans are content with the booming economy?"

Now that we have made our presence known (you all don't mind me speaking for us, do you? Good. In fact, I'll just assume the currently-vacant mantle of this majority party and serve as your leader until you say otherwise...), it is time to find a way that says, loudly and clearly, just how mad as hell we are and how we are not going to take it anymore. We need to find a way where our vote screams "None of the Above!" A chance to act, like that Chinese guy in Tieneman Square, standing in front of a moving tank and stopping it in its path.

In November, we should find a way to follow in the footsteps of those intelligent Minnesotans who, even thought they could care less about professional wrestling (and even less, I'm sure, for Jesse "The Body"), proved to the world that they not only have a sense of humor, but they know how to stick it to the whole bloody system. Think of just how high their level of anger must have been against the One-Party-With-Two-Heads monopoly! I mean, state government is no joke - somebody's gotta build the roads, run the schools, catch the criminals. You don't want to turn the asylum

LINT TRAP



(Ralph, continued)

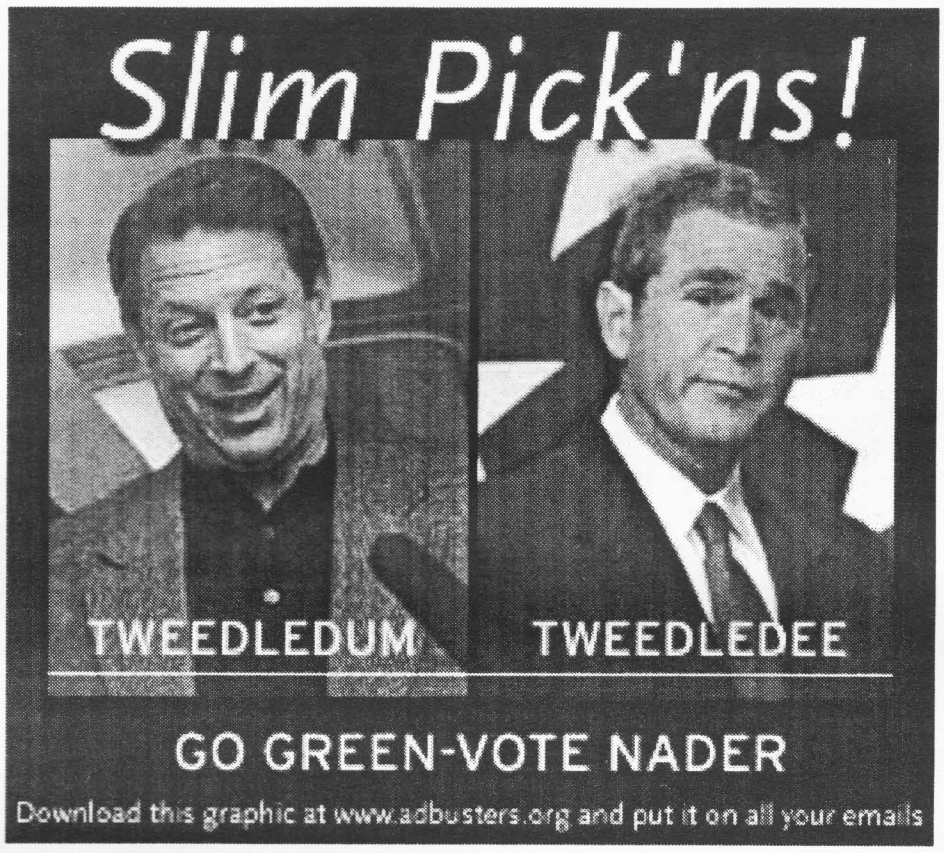
chy of power is quickly drying, and when it is finished hardening, we are finished. The democracy, the one that's supposed to be of, by, and for the people, will cease to exist.

We must not let this happen, no matter how cynical and disgusted we've become at the whole electoral process.

Ralph Nader, to me, represents a chance for us to at least temporarily stop the cement from drying. We need him in there kicking things up, stirring the pot and forcing a real debate about the issues. Whether it's Ralph as Candidate or Ralph as President, he may represent our last hope to get our country back from the clutches of the powerful few.

I am not writing these words lightly. I am hoping to sound a siren and rally the majority who, for good reason, have given up - but might just have it in them to find the will for one last fight against the bastards.

Can Ralph win? Well, stranger things have happened in the past decade. C'mon, think about it, not a single one of us ever thought we'd see the Berlin Wall come down or Nelson Mandela as President of South Africa. After those two things happened, I joined a new school of thought that said ANYTHING was possible. Jesse Ventura started with 3% in the polls and won. Ross Perot in '92 started with 6% and, after proving to everyone that he was certifiably insane, still got nearly 20% of the vote.



Ralph already has between 7% and 10% in the polls - before he's done any serious campaigning. He's gone from 3% to 8% in my home state of Michigan. These are amazing numbers and the pundits and lobbyists and Republicrats are running scared. Hey, you like to watch scared Republicrats running? Tell a pollster you're voting for Ralph.

Now, look, before you all send me a lot of mail about how weird Ralph is 'cause he doesn't own a car or is a "sellout" 'cause he's got a few million dollars, let me say this: I used to work out of his office, and Ralph is definitely one of a kind. In a future letter I will write of those experiences but, for now, let's just agree that Ralph is at least half as crazy as Jesse Ventura - and about a hundred times as smart. I'd say he's also saved about a million or so lives, thanks to the consumer and environmental legislation he has devoted his life to.

And between Gore, Bush, and himself, he's the only person running who would guarantee universal health care for all, the only candidate who would raise the minimum wage to a decent level, the only one who would get up each morning asking himself the question, "What can I do today to serve all the people of this country?"

The list goes on and on. You can read more about what Ralph stands for by going to his website (http://www.votenader.org). You'll agree, I'm sure, there's lots of common sense there, regardless of what political stripe you are.

But remember. If you are even THINKING of voting for Al Gore, vote for Al Gore. Ralph Nader does not need a single Gore vote. There are a hundred million of us out there who are uncommitted and currently not voting. Right now, Gore and Bush are each hoping to win by getting only 40 million votes.

If you are in the Non-Voting majority and want to let 'em all have it, if you want to get our country back in our hands...well, if even half of you show up and vote November 7 then you won't be held responsible for Bush winning the White House.

In fact, you won't be held responsible for putting Gore in the White House, either.

Rather, you will have made history by putting a true American hero at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

And you will have given every company, every boss who's done ya wrong, the worst nightmare of their lives.

November 7. Payback Time.

The revenge of the Non-Voters!

So sayeth their unappointed leader, yours truly, Michael Moore mmflint@aol.com http://www.theawfultruth.com http://www.michaelmoore.com

PS. Come to think of it, Democrats should be on their knees thanking Ralph for running. Rather than taking votes from Gore, Ralph's going to be the one responsible for turning the House back over to the Democrats.

When millions of these Non-Voters enter that booth to vote for Ralph, and they come across their local race for Congress, they will find no Green Party candidate in most of the 435 Congressional districts. So who do you think Ralph's army of Non-Voters will plunk down for Congress? The Republican? I don't think so.

The Democrats are only six seats short of regaining control of the House. Ralph Nader will be the reason the Democrats get the House back for the first time since Newt's Contract on America in 1994.

Democrats should send their checks to Nader 2000, P.O. Box 18002, Washington, DC 20035.

(Or, better yet, let's try to elect enough Greens to Congress — a dozen or so — and they'll hold the deciding votes because neither the Democrats nor the Republicans will have the majority. It'll be a friggin' Knesset!)

PPS. If you're still worried this letter might convince a weak-kneed Gore voter to flip over to Nader - and thus lead to President George W. stacking the Supreme Court to make abortion illegal, well, it's all a bunch of hooey. Please read my latest grassroots.com column entitled, "I Ain't Fallin for That One Again" at <www.michaelmoore.com/aint.html> ◆

Local Green Runs for Congress

Tristan Baurick

3rd District voters could find their ballots look a little greener this November.

Olympia resident and Green Party member Sean Rogers is less than 300 signatures away from 1,430 required to run for the state's 3rd congressional district, which represents much of southwest Washington from Olympia to Vancouver.

Once on the ballot, Rogers will seek official nomination by WashingtonÕs Green Party. With no other Greens seeking the same congressional seat, Rogers is confident the party will support his campaign. Already the local South Sound branch has thrown their support behind Rogers.

Both Rogers and the Republican challenger Trent Matson are up against the incumbent Brian Baird. Representative Baird is a highly regarded Democrat and has collected nearly $1 million in campaign contributions thus far.

With the realities of his chances clearly in mind, Rogers says he is running in an effort to build support for the local Green Party and to raise awareness about the issues he feels should be on everyone's minds.

"I'm not running against Brian Baird," Rogers said "I'm running for solar power, community based economics, and industrial hemp."

Rogers believes economic dependencies on fossil fuels, unsustainable agriculture, logging, and high material consumption are in need of immediate reform.

"We need to change the system before the sky falls," he said.

Through his campaign for a spot in the U.S. House, Rogers is calling for locally-based energy production, with a special emphasis on alternative sources of energy, such as wind and solar power. Rogers says this will cut down on the wastefulness of transporting energy from large power plants and the pollution caused by coal fire and nuclear generation.

Rogers believes there is also the need for a radical rethinking of two major issues in this state: Forests and salmon.

Decriminalizing and reviving the hemp industry is one way, Rogers says, that the ills of deforestation can be alleviated. Because industrial hemp can produce four times the amount of paper per acre than trees, less land would be required for production and more land could be preserved.

Furthermore, Rogers believes a shift to industrial hemp would restimulate the economies of former timber-dependent areas of the state, providing a new lively hood that is more sustainable.

Rogers says the problem of declining salmon populations is the result of many varying factors. The combination of industrial hemp and the resulting reduction in logging would lessen the chokehold soil runoff has on streams and rivers.

A shift to organic farm production and less use of pesticides would, according to Rogers, dramatically cut the amount of pollution seeping into fish habitats and make life much more tolerable to Washington salmon.

Although he knows reducing the number of dams and cutting back on commercial salmon harvesting will be hard for a state highly dependent on hydroelectric power and the fishing industry, Rogers believes the sacrifice is necessary for the long-term health of the salmon and the broader ecosystem.

"Its hard," he said, "People will loose their livelihood. There's not much a fisherman can do if he can't fish. But, in the long run, itÕs the right thing to do."

Rogers sees all of his envisioned changes as part of a gradual process in which the concerns of people are not smothered by environmental zealotism.

"The major fault of the environmental movement is that itÕs never really looked at the economic issues of people. We canÕt tear out all the dams at once and we canÕt restrict all fishing." Rogers said.

Originally running as an independent, Rogers has broadened his platform since joining the Green Party.

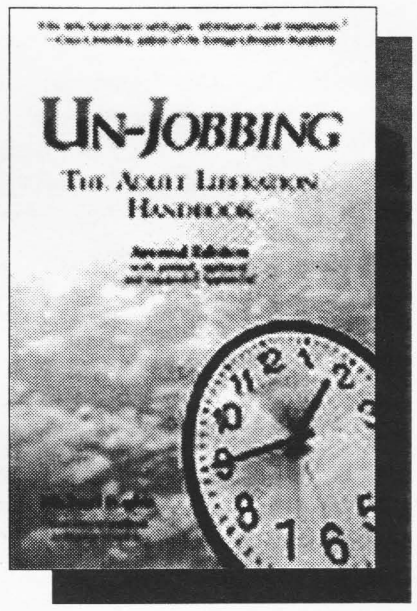
"I've learned a lot since becoming a Green," he said "I've always been an environmentalist, but now I'm much more aware of social justice issues. Basically, itÕs the same exploitation. If you can exploit the environment, you can exploit people."

To find out more about the South Sound Greens call (360) 753-7052 or email them at southsoundgreens@yahoo.com ◆

Book Review

Un-Jobbing: The Adult Liberation Handbook

The Meaning of Work: an interview with Michael Fogler



basil elias

To contact Michael, or to order a copy of his book, email him at mfogler@igc.org, or write to him via: Free Choice Press. Post Office Box 1027. Lexington, KY 40588-1027.

Michael Fogler is the author of Un-Jobbing: The Adult Liberation Handbook- a book that wants you to "free yourself from a life of merely earning a paycheck, in order to reclaim a liberated life in complete alignment with your personal values."

As someone who has moved through college to the working world- someone who has been dedicated to living an alternative lifestyle more in line with my values- I wanted to grasp onto a vision about work that meant more than an eight-to-five day, 40 hour week simply for the paycheck. I didn't want to give my mind and labor to someone every day without some personal fulfillment. Michael Fogler's book brought forth one of the inspiring ideas I grabbed onto. Un-Jobbing has become an essential part of my life, and I find it important enough to share with everyone I can.

basil: What is Un-jobbing and where did this idea originate?

Michael: Un-Jobbing is a word I "coined" to describe a philosophy and a way of life—a way of looking at "paying the bills" without swallowing whole the cultural baggage that goes with the concept of career. Basically, it's about spending all the moments of your life—including those moments where you are earning income—in activities that are in full alignment with your values.

basil: What are some essential ideas of Un-jobbing?

Michael: Don't think about things which are geared toward career, think about things which are geared toward a fulfilling life. Think about how much materialism is "enough." Be very conscious about your personal economic behavior pattern. Be very conscious about what your values truly are. Those are some of the essential ideas.

basil: How and when did you begin Un-jobbing?

Michael: In one sense, I've been Un-jobbing my entire adult life. I got into this because I was a "failure" in the conventional, mainstream job market. No need to go into details, but I never, not once, landed a full-time, career type of job. I certainly tried very hard; but it never happened. For a long time I was miserable because of this. Eventually, I decided "to make lemonade out of the lemon" so to speak, and I decided to think of not being in the conventional career world as a positive. Suddenly, that resonated, and I've been much happier ever since. My ends continue to be met (and actually always have been met). And, I'm doing what I truly want to do. So, I sat up and said: What's the problem?

basil: What have some complications and perks been in your life because of this?

Michael: Nothing gets rid of complications short of death! So, yeah, there are complications. One of the things my family has done is reduce our household to one car. I love the financial savings and the environmental applications of that; and it's kept me healthier (I do a lot of bicycling). But it does require a lot of coordination between my wife and me about who has the car and when. Other than that, we don't have any other complications that anyone else living in a more conventional way wouldn't have. The perks are too numerous to mention! I don't have anywhere to regularly report. I actually spend time at home. I have a connection with my son which could not be possible living the other way. I experience less stress than most people. etc. etc.

basil: In your book, you propose that taking responsibility for your financial life is essential to Un-jobbing. How would a person go about doing this?

The perks are too numerous to mention! I don't have anywhere to regularly report. I actually spend time at home. I experience less stress than most people.

Michael: You need to take on what I call the program of conscious personal economics. The details of this are too much for this interview. This is the major "homework" of the book. Basically, it's about getting very aware about what you're spending money on and how much, and getting very clear about whether those expenditures are truly in alignment with your values. A side issue with this is also to get very clear about the financial costs of your income-earning activities. Most people haven't thought about the fact that a lot of the money spent by people is *because* of their jobs: transportation, childcare, services because we're too busy or tired, restaurant eating versus eating at home—and on and on and on. This is a very important calculation to realize.

basil: How closely do you calculate your finances?

Michael: For several years, right down to the penny. Now, I've loosened up a bit because I think that I have a good handle on being aware about my spending and a good handle on my spending's alignment with my values.

basil: What values are you referring to in terms of catering spending habits toward?

Michael: First, a word of caution. These are my values. I'm not about getting other people to copy me! My values are my values and your values are your values. Mine suit me, but they're not "better" than yours.

But, to give you an example: I eat vegan, which is totally vegetarian including no dairy or eggs. I do this not only for health reasons, but also for environmental, political, and spiritual reasons. So, when I'm at a food store, I'm obviously not going to buy any animal products. And, regarding the plant foods that I buy, I will try to have them as local and organic as I possibly can. That also speaks to my values. If I want to buy an article of clothing, somewhat less clear-cut values come into place: Do I really have a need for this in the first place? Is the item I'm considering made from sweatshop labor? These questions relate to my values of low materialism, living as lightly on Earth as I can, and economic justice. This can be difficult. It takes quite an effort, for example, to find athletic shoes that aren't from some labor-exploitive Asian factory.

basil: Do you need money in savings to do this?

Michael: If you think you do, yes. It certainly doesn't hurt. And while it's not absolutely essential, I recommend having some reserves at all times.

basil: What are some ways to make money besides the 40 hr work week?

Michael: Now we're getting to the second big step after the program of conscious personal economics. That step is a thorough, honest self-inventory. What are your values? Why are you here on Earth? What do you think is essential to have in your life? What are your talents and gifts? Getting clear about this can enable one to find ways to make money that are still in alignment with values and still in a good balance among all your other activities. What I've done is to carve out a freelance, home-based life. I don't consider myself a "career counselor" or even a moonlighting counselor. I do believe that if you do the work on yourself and begin to take baby steps toward some idea, then opportunities will present themselves, and things will work out. I've gone through the last decade with this philosophy, and it hasn't failed me yet.

basil: How would a person with no assets, who is barely scraping by latch on to these ideas and make them a reality in their life?

Michael: First of all, if this person were to do the program of conscious personal economics, it's very likely that s/he would begin to scrape by much more easily. Perhaps, the Un-jobbing ideas are even more important for a person like this. Almost anyone can reduce his or her expenses. Having less expenses can buy the person some breathing room and some freedom. Financial stress is the result of expenses being too close to income or expenses exceeding income. Change that equation to having a reasonable cushion of income being higher than expenses and financial stress goes away. This is true if you're "barely scraping by" or if you're a millionaire.

basil: What if someone who was barely scraping by recalculated their finances, cut out all extraneous expenses, had no money in savings, no car or house to sell, etc. and their expenses due to debt, doctor bills, etc. still outweigh their income. They are working 40 hours a week and truly are trying to Un-job. Through your book, they've managed to relieve some financial burden, but haven't been able to Un-job in terms of quitting their 40 hr per week. What do you suggest to them? Is there a limitation to whom Un-jobbing applies?

Michael: There is a limitation, but hopefully in a temporary way only. If someone was really strapped with debt and has very little assets, they may need to do the heavy work load—for a temporary amount of time. Maybe it's 6 months, maybe a year or 2 or more. However, at some point, when the debt is gone, a more genuine Un-jobbing strategy could be done. Avoiding debt is one of the major principles to follow. Having a sane financial situation and debt, I believe, cannot co-exist. (The only exception here would be a mortgage for a house.)

basil: Many people reading this interview are young adults who are questioning adulthood and what their life's work is going to be. What kind of advice would you give to someone who is starting out in their adulthood?

Michael: Listen to the truth within you—whatever it is. Follow it. Know that that truth is there for a reason: it has to do with the answer to the question "Why am I here on Earth?" Realize that no one on their deathbed has ever said: "I wish I had spent more time on my business." True abundance is having enough money to meet your expenses while doing what resonates with your heart.

basil: Define Adult Liberation.

Michael: It's Un-jobbing! It's having the freedom to be and to do what one truly wants to be and to do.

basil: How much of Un-jobbing is about economics?

Michael: Paradoxically, Un-jobbing has everything to do with economics (because we live in a money-ed society and I'm not talking about going off to live in a cave); and it has nothing to do with economics (because it's really and truly about how you are spending your life not about how you are spending your money).

basil: In your book, you quote Matthew Fox's definition of work as "the joyful returning of one's gift to their commu-

(Continued next page)

(Unjobbing, continued)

nity." Do you have any insight into the process necessary in order to tap one's creativity and uniqueness in ways to develop reciprocal relationships in their communities?

Michael: I'm constantly looking for this myself. It happens in multitudes of unique ways. First of all, I believe that if you are truly living according to your heart, then you will, by definition, be a gift to the community. The other side of that is that creating more "community" in our collective lives is something that commonly resonates with just about all of us. Any acts of service, cooperation, bartering, and so on can help create such community. Our society is a mere infant when it comes to this stuff. Humans used to do this as a normal way of life, but modern agriculture, industrialism, and capitalism changed all that.

basil: How can people help each other Un-job, or find their life's work and pursue it?

Michael: I recommend getting together with other like-minded people to help and support one another for this work. For example, people doing the program of conscious personal economics can get together and compare notes and experiences. Also, people doing the thorough self-inventory can get together and answer those questions I stated above out loud to one another. I have found that that can be quite an inspiring experience. It can be amazing what is revealed about a person's deepest truth when they are speaking in a circle of trusted friends delving into this kind of really important stuff.

basil: Are there networks of people doing this?

Michael: There are journals, websites, etc. And, there are small "voluntary simplicity" groups all over the US and in many other countries. Check out simpleliving.net on the internet for a list of such groups and lots of other good information. Starting your own group is also quite easy. All you need is as few as 2 or 3 others and some guidelines from resources like my book and many others.

basil: How does Un-jobbing tie in with the "voluntary simplicity" movement? How do the philosophies overlap?

Michael: The voluntary simplicity movement is a broader concept than Un-jobbing. Voluntary simplicity can include Un-jobbing ideas, but it can also be things like socially responsible investing or cleaning out your closets and attics, things which are all fine and good but may not get to the heart of having a truly fulfilled life. I see Un-jobbing as bolder, and dealing with the central core issue of a person's life: why are you here? and, how are you going to spend your minutes, hours, days, years that will resonate with and fulfill the answer to the first question?

basil: I love Grace Llewellyn's book The Teenage Liberation Handbook. Does the Un-jobbing movement tie in to the deschooling movement?

Michael: Absolutely! I am "unschooling" with my son. And, when I was nearing the completion of writing my book, I suddenly realized the link between Un-jobbing and unschooling. They're both about living a life of freedom and purpose, whether the person is 6 or 16 or 46. I then came up with the idea of "The Adult Liberation Handbook" as my sub-title. I wrote to Grace Llewellyn to ask if she were comfortable with my borrowing from her book title. She wrote back, graciously giving my book (and complete title) her blessing and saying that she was glad that someone was writing a book about extending the unschooling idea into adulthood.

basil: Please name some examples of Un-jobbing at work in people's lives.

Michael: I'll start with myself: I'm a musician and play "gigs" and teach lessons. I also do a newsletter for a local, non-profit peace and justice organization. And, I sell a few books and occasionally earn money speaking and presenting about these ideas. Un-jobbing for someone else might mean doing what they've been doing, but maybe doing it less than "full-time." Keep in mind that the 40-hour workweek is pure invention. It is nothing to do with what's essential, and can therefore be un-invented by anyone who wants to. Lots of people are earning money with computer skills (like being a graphic artist) doing it in a home-based freelance way, instead of doing it 60-70 hours a week for a big-time corporation. I have other brief examples of people making Un-jobbing work in their lives in my book.

basil: Do you have any closing comments?

Michael: I'm a firm believer in baby steps. Most people are frozen when it comes to making life changes because they want to know that if they make a change that everything will be all right. But, I have found that as long as I stay at point A I can never know how things will be ("turn out") at point B unless I move to point B. The Universe never truly reveals about point B as long as I stay at point A. The only way to know is to move. So, I encourage people who have some new life in mind that is scary for them to contemplate moving toward, to think of one baby step that they would be comfortable doing right now that would face them in the direction that they want to go. After making that first baby step, see how you feel and then think of another baby step. Then make that step, take another deep breath and then think of and take another baby step. Soon, doors will present themselves that could not be seen or could not be available back at that point A.

I'm a prime example. When I first began Un-jobbing, I hadn't even thought of the word, much less had any notion that one day I would write a book about it and even make some money doing it! And, if you were to talk to me in another few years, who knows what I may be doing? I certainly don't! The bottom line here: listen to your gut, and have trust and faith. ◆

OREGON AG. DEPT. SIDES WITH GROWERS

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has officially asked the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) to reconsider its recent endorsement of the NORPAC boycott called by the Oregon farmworker union PCUN. The CLC is the Canadian counterpart of the AFL-CIO and represents 2.3 million Canadian workers.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has remained quiet in the face of firings, evictions and other retaliatory measures which NORPAC growers have taken against farmworkers who dare to speak out. Instead, the ODA's letter to the CLC cites a government survey that farmworkers are "satisfied" and another survey making the absurd claim that farmworkers are making more than $7 an hour. Farmworkers are not content with their working or living conditions. Many barely make minimum wage. NORPAC growers systematically seek to prevent farmworkers from having union representation.

The ODA's action is inappropriate and demonstrates how the powerful grower lobby corrupts the political process. At the same time, it indicates the seriousness with which NORPAC is taking the boycott of NORPAC products, which include: FLAV-R-PAC, Westpac and Santiam.

[Information provided by PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste - Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United): (503) 982-0243, <eriknicholson@pcun.org]

ACTION REQUEST

Please copy, sign and mail the following letter to the OR Governor:

Governor John A. Kitzhaber
M.D. State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Governor Kitzhaber:

I have been informed that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has gone on record asking the Canadian Labour Congress to reconsider its recent endorsement of the NORPAC boycott called by the Oregon farmworker union PCUN.

I find it inappropriate and outrageous that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has taken a partisan position on the boycott of NORPAC products. The use of taxpayer dollars to defend the NORPAC growers in a labor dispute raises serious ethical questions.

Farmworkers employed by NORPAC growers have been fired, evicted from grower-owned housing and even physically attacked for speaking out about their living and working conditions. The NORPAC growers, both individually and collectively, have refused to recognize the right of farmworkers to secure contracts through collective bargaining.

There is a growing international movement calling on NORPAC to negotiate a contract with PCUN. The Canadian Labour Congress, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the Washington/Oregon/Idaho Conference of the United Methodist Church all have called on NORPAC to negotiate. Across the United States and elsewhere in the world, concerned people are asking why Oregon mistreats its farmworkers. And now, the partisan behavior of the Oregon Department of Agriculture threatens to taint the reputation of your administration.

I urge you to remind the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Mr. Phil Ward, that he is responsible to all those who are part of Oregon agriculture, not just the well-financed grower lobby.

Sincerely,
[NAME + ADDRESS]

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The Price of Peace: $1.3 billion in U.S Aid?

Kelly Spitzer

On Jan. 11, the Clinton Administration proposed an aid package that would send $1.6 billion to the Colombian military. Eighty percent of this aid would be in the form of Blackhawk and Huey helicopters, which, in the past have been equipped with 20 mm cannons. The aid package with a final price tag of $1.3 billion after passing through the Senate, was signed into law by President Clinton on July 1. The reason for this proposal? The United States' infamous "War on Drugs."

The U.S. has been providing military assistance to Colombia to fight drug trafficking since the early 1990s, yet this "assistance" has done little to stop the flow of drugs crossing the border. *The Washington Times* reported earlier this month that nearly 90 percent of Colombian narcotics continues to enter the United States. Likewise, the total number of hectares planted with coca and poppy has surpassed the amount reported in any other time during Colombia's history. Obviously, military assistance has been ineffective in combating the drug problem, a problem many see as purely social and not appropriate for military intervention.

Instead of rethinking the military approach, the U.S. has decided to increase the amount of money being spent on the drug war. According to Title VI of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, the $1.3 billion in aid will be spent primarily on troop training and aviation equipment. Forty-two Huey II helicopters and 18 Blackhawk helicopters are destined for Colombia, along with three new battalions, which are to be trained by U.S. Special Forces. Colombia is also to receive mass amounts of fumigation efforts, perhaps using the mycoherbicide fusarium oxysporum. This herbicide is recognized to mutate and spread to neighboring plants, and cause lethal infections in humans with weakened immune systems, often the result of malnutrition.

Colombia's President, Andres Pastrana, is requesting international aid as part of his "Plan Colombia," a plan aimed not only at fighting drug trafficking, but rebuilding the economy and bringing peace to a country in the depths of a long civil war. But people worldwide are questioning Pastrana's methods and the $1.3 billion in aid the United States is putting straight into the military's hands. Critics claim that financing the Colombian military will only escalate the country's civil war. Considering the approach, this seems a likely outcome.

For over 50 years, the Colombian people have been fighting a war for social change. It is a war that has pitted the citizens of Colombia in a political battle of left against right. On the one hand, the country's right-wing paramilitary groups are interested in maintaining the status quo -- a supposed democratic government that lays claim to the hemisphere's worst human rights record.

Obviously, military assistance has been ineffective in combating the drug problem, a problem many see as purely social and not appropriate for military intervention.

The Colombian Commission of Jurists reported in September 1999 that 80 percent of human rights violations are attributable to the paramilitaries. Furthermore, the Colombian military, the very people receiving the aid, have direct links to the country's paramilitary groups. In a Human Rights Watch report titled "The Ties That Bind: Colombia and Military-Paramilitary Links," the organization presents compelling evidence of continuing ties between government troops and the right-wing death squads. The brigades that have established ties with the paramilitaries are units "receiving or scheduled to receive U.S. military aid. . ."

On the other hand, the leftist guerilla forces are fighting to create a new Colombia. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's largest and most organized guerilla group, has waged this battle for 36 years. In an interview conducted by Worker's World, the FARC claims their objective is to take power and build a society without "exploiters and exploited," an idea which contradicts the current neo-liberal economic model the Colombian government is following.

The FARC has long recognized the inherent dangers of adopting the neo-liberal model of capitalism that the "Washington Consensus" -- the IMF, World Bank, and U.S. Treasury -- has been vigorously pursuing. In Colombia, these policies have produced record high rates of unemployment and poverty, a decline in industrial production, continuous drops in GDP, and, in turn, increasing dependence on foreign investment and loans to "save" the economy. But neo-liberalism has also opened up Colombian markets, allowing foreign investors to stake claims on the country's precious resources, especially its rich oil reserves.

U.S. companies such as Occidental Petroleum, a company Vice President Al Gore claims a considerable amount of stock in, is set to begin drilling for oil any day now. The problem: the site is located near sacred tribal ground belonging to the U'Wa Indian tribe. It appears unlikely that protests will stop the drilling, which is part of a larger trend the U.S. has been pursuing since the Gulf War. Since the conflicts in the Middle East, the United States has been relying more on oil from Colombia and neighboring Venezuela. With the FARC opposing foreign ownership of this strategic sector, the supply of Colombian oil entering the U.S. could be threatened.

Questions about the motives of the aid package begin here, but the evidence suggesting others goes deeper. The United States maintains that the FARC is the primary party responsible for cultivating coca crops and maintaining a drug trade, yet "[a]s many have observed, the military themselves are heavily involved in narcotrafficking, and their paramilitary associates -- who openly proclaim their reliance on narcotrafficking -- are not the targets of the planned operations. The targets are guerrilla forces based on the peasantry and calling for internal social change, which would interfere with integration of Colombia into the global system on the terms that the U.S. demands..." (ZNet Commentary: Noam Chomsky on Colombia, 3).

Because the area targeted for extensive anti-drug efforts is located within FARC territory, where only half of the country's coca crops grow, the evidence suggests that opinions such as this are not far off. Northern Colombia, where most of the paramilitaries operate, is not to be touched. Furthermore, many U.S. officials have openly proclaimed their desire to push the guerrillas out of the jungle in order to defeat them.

The guerilla forces aren't the only ones calling for change, however. Since 1997, there have been 41 general strikes led by labor organizations that have included students, peasants, indigenous people, and other community organizations. They too want an end to the government's neo-liberal economic policies, which many see as hampering the peace process. Financing the drug war by placing billions of dollars in the hands of the Colombian military, and therefore the right wing paramilitary groups, effects these people too. Labeled as guerilla sympathizers, many citizens within these ranks will become paramilitary prey.

It seems obvious that bringing peace and economic security to Colombia cannot happen with $1.3 billion in military assistance being poured into the country. Or can it? The determination of the U.S. to wage a drug war in the southern region of the country, the very place the FARC is located, without entering other infected areas, points to an alternative method for instituting peace -- the destruction of opposition forces. If the FARC is eradicated, Colombia can fully enter into a neo-liberal economic agenda while the U.S. secures its oil supplies. And "peace" will finally reign on Colombia and its long history of democracy. ◆

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STAR WARS II: Return of the SDI

Tim Russell

Luke it's a farce! It's hard to believe we are again revisiting the Strategic Defense Initiative, first proposed in 1983, and commonly referred to as Star Wars. But it's true. The plan to shoot missiles out of the sky with nifty space-based laser weapons, powered by equally nifty space-based nuclear reactors, was deemed technologically impossible. Likewise, the image of deadly nuclear-tipped missiles bouncing off an "impenetrable shield," as bugs might glance off your windshield, was deemed fiction. Coupled with the end of the Cold War, Reagan and Star Wars was finally dead.

But now we're back at it. In 1998, President Clinton signed the National Missile Defense (NMD) Act into law. This legislation called for construction of a far less ambitious system, while still attempting nation-wide protection, "as soon as technologically possible." Since then, and $ later, we've embarked upon a rapid series of tests, in an effort to have a "limited shield" (Star Wars Lite), operational by 2005.

This summer, the President is set to decide whether to proceed with the NMD program. This decision will be based on four factors, as stated by the Administration: 1) the cost, 2) the effects on other countries, 3) urgency of the threat, and 4) the technological feasibility. The later is largely based on the success or failure of three intercept tests, which have just recently been conducted. He has numerous possibilities, but the one which he has Congressional support for is to spend ultimately $60 billion, attempting to bring to life what the majority of the scientific community still feels is not technologically feasible. Moreover, to proceed with the NMD program, would violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, and in so doing, totally reverse our course from five years of detente and weapons dismantling under START II, to initiating the next, ever more suicidal arms race.

Recent Events/Program Outline

With the signing of the NMD Act, the U.S. began a course of research, development and testing, to see whether, a bullet could shoot a bullet out of the sky. As different from Reagan's Star Wars, the interceptors would be ground-based rather than space-based. Specifically, the U.S. program seeks to establish 100 interceptors in Alaska, radar detection installations, and space-based sensors. The goal of this far more modest system is to offer a "defensive system" that is capable of shooting down just one, or a few incoming missiles rather than anything like what the original Star Wars intended. The threat, as stated by the Pentagon, is seen to come from select "rogue states," with less developed technology, rather than our previous Cold War threat - the Russian Empire.

Even hitting one warhead screaming through space, is a very difficult prospect. Besides the speed of the targeted warheads in these tests, the interceptor missile would have to discern between decoys and warheads. One missile can and usually will have more than one warhead in it, with numerous decoys as well. Still more difficult, warheads can be MIRVed so that the delivery vehicle gets within range, and can jettison the first warhead, travel further and jettison another along a different flight path; thus the acronym MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles).

These are some of the difficulties in shooting down incoming warheads late in the launch phase. Most scientists favor a system that attempts interception at the boost phase of the rocket's course. Here, in addition to the fact that the ballistic missile has not broken into warheads and decoys, the interceptor can home in on the heat given-off as the rocket climbs out of the atmosphere.

The recent tests evidence just how difficult the engineering is for this program. Essentially, all three of the tests conducted have failed. At the most recent third test on July 8th, the "kill vehicle" did not even separate from the rocket. The October test, which the Pentagon heralded as a success, later turned out to have failed as well, when the Pentagon released that the interceptor "drifted off course and picked out the decoy balloon instead."(NY Times, July 6th) It is unclear at this point, whether there will be a fourth test, and whether Clinton will decide, or put the decision off for the next administration.

Critical Response to the National Missile Defense Proposal

Much of the scientific community has come out against the proposed plan. Fifty Nobel laureates, have come together and drafted a letter to the Pentagon urging a halt to the program. In their letter, they expressed that the proposed system would offer " little protection and would do grave harm to this nation's core security interests." (NY Times, July 6) The Pentagon's response to the letter was basically, that these are learned old men, but are a bit out of touch, citing that they "had no access to secret information about the proposed system's feasibility or to intelligence on global missile threats." (NY Times, July6th) This is a favorite of the military establishment. The "you don't know what I know, so you have no judgement" clause, usually used on the general public, less often on "experts" in their own right.

In another New York Times article, Doctor Theodore Postal one-ups the supposed Pentagon experts, stating that William Cohen, the Secretary of Defense and Lt. Gen. Ronald Radish, the head of the Pentagon's ballistic missile office, are "technically illiterate." He goes further to state that NMD "is based on faulty science, fantasy and outright fraud."(July NY Times) Unlike the Nobel laureates, Dr. Postal does have a security clearance, and his credentials are similarly extensive in physics and with weapons programs.

Assessing the Threat

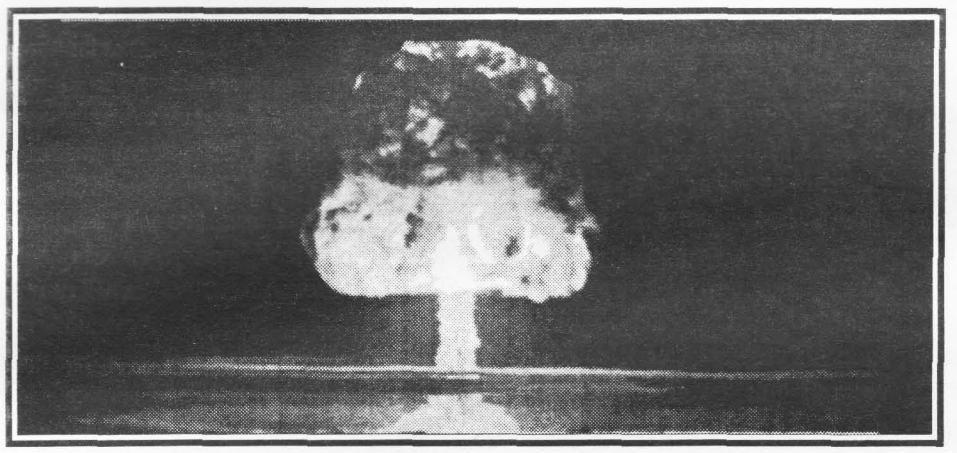
Possibly the most important feature that distinguishes the current Son of Star Wars, from the 80's version, is how the system is geared for an attack from a "rogue nation." This term was recently changed to "state of concern," so as not to offend, but the idea is the same. Whereas on some level, leaders in the Soviet Union have been trusted to be cautious and rational, leaders of these rogue states, such as Iran, Iraq, and N. Korea are considered not to be. Thus the nuclear weapons policy that has carried us through the Cold War up till now, where we threaten Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD), which has lead to the incredible arms build-up over the years, is now rendered insufficient.

The NMD program is stated as not aimed at the Russian or Chinese threat (though there is evidence that this is not the case), but at the supposed future threat of a nation with a leader undaunted by total annihilation. Senior government officials quoted in the Times, regard the leaders of these countries as "capable of irrational self-destructive behavior." Leon S. Fuerth, Gore's national security advisor, compares this new threat to the former Soviet threat, stating "we never have had the depth of understanding about what makes the North Koreans tick to give us that confidence."

The idea of "rogue states" having rulers who are too irrational and maniacal to be deterred by any means, is basically writing a blank check to the Pentagon, and the weapons contractors.

The idea of "rogue states" having rulers who are too irrational and maniacal to be deterred by any means, is basically writing a blank check to the Pentagon, and the weapons contractors. Clearly terrorism on a massive scale is a considerable threat in the next hundred years. But we must be extremely careful, with how we perceive it, and how we respond to it.

Ironically, due to the fact that the U.S. has most often favored armaments to diplomacy, we are laying the ground work for the dangerous world, we're seeking protection from. The Pentagon continues to apply the same formula of inducing public fear of an apparent threat (remember the supposed Bomber Gap and Missile Gap?), fomenting conservative demands for an increase in military spending. This results in an inaccurate fear-driven response, where shear weapons production appears the answer. Meanwhile, with improved speed and firepower of our systems, the response time becomes less, and the weapons placed on a more hair-trigger "launch on warning" alert. The world becomes a more dangerous place.



Russia and China

The ABM Treaty of '84(?) states that a nation may not build more than a regional ballistic missile defense. At the time the U.S. had a base in North Dakota that was used to protect the nation's capital. The Soviets similarly have a regional system offering some protection of their capital. To build a nation-wide missile defense would be in violation of this, the longest standing nuclear weapons treaty. Moreover, it would reverse the gains in weapons reductions that have been made over the last ten years.

Both China and Russia have stated unequivocally that they are against the U.S.'s pursuit of a ballistic missile defense. They have also made it clear that they would both have no alternative other than to begin with modernization and development of additional weapons systems. China who has about 20 ICBMs capable of reaching U.S. targets, has expressed the most alarm, as they view the proposed limited shield as enough to render their deterent capacity obsolete. Both countries, as with the Star Wars of the 80's, are concerned about the U.S.'s abilities to launch a first strike, which would wipe out a significant portion of the other countries weapons, then have "reasonable" success defending against what was left. For China and Russia, the NMD program is perceived as an offensive system, a very concrete fear.

Remarkably the Pentagon has suggested that the Russia goes to a higher level of alert so as not to have their missiles in their silos when the U.S. missiles hit; that is, launch-on-warning. You can see the relative peace that the end of the Cold War has brought may be fleeting. The resilience of the industry driven U.S. defense establishment is immense.

In closing, it seems quite clear that abandoning the proposed NMD is the correct course. This is the case for three reasons: 1) The proposed system is not technologically feasible now or anytime in the next twenty years. Building a boost phase system is favored by the scientific community (because early in the missile's trajectory the rocket is slow, hot and big, as opposed to the mid-phase where NMD is focused), but should be pursued only in a research phase. 2) It's expensive and fraudulent to charge the public for such a system, with inevitable cost overruns, and only a prediction of effectiveness. Of course if only a couple bombs get through and only a few million people die, with effects lasting for three generations, the Pentagon will consider this "acceptable losses." 3) The repercussions will be serious. China will pour money into an otherwise aging and currently not very threatening, Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) program. The ABM treaty will wind up on the scrap heap. START I and II missile reduction plans will essentially be nullified, as Russia too, will be forced to develop their systems. START III would be DOA.

On the whole, the U.S. will have once

(Continued next page)

(Star Wars, continued)

again chosen to meet a technological threat with another technological threat. Suffice to say, international relations will be strained. Another critic of the NMD, is French President Jacques Chirac. He stated in a Dec. 1999 NY Times interview, "If you look at world history, ever since men began waging war, you will see that there's a permanent race between sword and shield. The sword always wins. The more improvements that are made to the shield, the more improvements are made to the sword."

The question has been posed,"Why would the country with by far the greatest number and diversity of armaments be concerned with developing a still greater system, particularly if that effort might result in a decrease in relative parity, and ensuing decrease in stability. Rationally, it's difficult to see why the U.S. wants to pursue NMD. (Well...not from an industry point of view. Boeing who has the lead contract, would stand to make $9 billion.)

Since the end of the Cold War, the U.S. has operated in a policy vacuum, with few clear objectives, save furthering it's interests and investments. With this myopic perspective, one wonders if NMD is just another attempt for more leverage on the global playing field. Now more than ever before, the United States has been able to exert it's influence in today's essentially "uni-polar" power structure.

William Hartung and Michelle Ciarrocca are senior research associates at the World Policy Institute in New York. They suggest the real reason for the Administration's pursuit of NMD, in an article in The Nation June 19th. They state as follows:

"NMD's suprising political revival is rooted in the three C's of contemporary US politics: conservative ideology, Clintonian cowardice and corporate influence. These short-term pressures are in turn reinforced by an ambitious long-range military objective: the misguided quest for a state of absolute military superiority."

The unstated Administration quest for military superiority appears as a plausible answer. This military might would translate to political leverage in world events, as US ability to exert it's influence would be unbounded. Hartung and Ciarrocca add, "Pentagon hard-liners have a more immediate goal: using NMD as a shield to protect US forces in interventions against states like North Korea." Clearly, the ballistic missile defense program is an offensive effort, designed to allow further US hegemony world-wide.

For ways to make a difference, contact: Peace Action at www.peaceaction.org, or the Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers at www.cmd.org. ◆

Briefs, continued

Lori's situation and what US citizens can do about it.

In 1995, Lori Berenson was dragged off of a public bus in Lima, Peru, held incommunicado and tried by a hooded military tribunal. With no due process or chance to defend herself she was convicted of being a leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) and sentenced to life in prison. There has been no evidence proven against her, she has consistently maintained her innocence, and the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights has declared her to be "arbitrarily detained." Lori is kept in isolation 22 hours each day and recently went on a two-week hunger strike to protest her conditions and the conditions of other political prisoners. Lori went to Peru in 1995 to study and write about the culture, politics and economy there for two U.S. publications, which had authorized her trip. On November 30, 1995 Lori was arrested by anti-terrorism police. Lori has been declared a political prisoner by Amnesty International, and the United Nations and the Organization of American States have stated her imprisonment is unjust.

For more information: call Amy 357-2835 or Oshan 570-0039 Sponsored by: PRAXIS and Media Island International. For more information about Lori Berenson's case contact: Committee to Free Lori Berenson Gail Taylor, National Coordinator 110 Maryland Ave NE, #102 Washington, DC 20002 Phone: (202) 548-8480 Fax: (202)-544-9613 Email: gtaylor@freelori.org, website: www.freelori.org

Sustainable/Forestry Certification

The South Sound EcoBuilding Guild will host a short workshop on sustainable forestry certification at the Radio Ranch, 3102 8th Ave., on Wednesday, August 2nd at 6:30pm. Forestry certification is a consumer-driven system for improving forestry practices on a global scale. Discussion will include the certification system, product availability and pricing, and urban tree salvage. Call 791-5524 for more information.

Welfare Rights Organizing

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the **first Monday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

Nader/LaDuke 2000

The next volunteer meeting of the Nader/LaDuke 2000 campaign group will be **Thursday, August 10, from 7-9 p.m.**, at Traditions Cafe in downtown Olympia. Anyone who is interested in helping out with the campaign is invited to attend and become involved.

PFLAG's Annual Picnic!
Sunday, August 13th at 1pm
Yauger Park shelter
(west Olympia)

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

Problems with your landlord?

Call the Thurston County Tenants Union hotline at (360)**357-0615 or come by our monthly public legal clinic on Tuesday, August 15th at 6pm in the Lacey Library.** Come to volunteer and join the Board.

Art Batik Schedule

Come to the Community Art Studio and create -- let your mind go! Batik is a method of dyeing print into a fabric in which parts of the cloth not intended to be dyed are covered with wax which is later removed. You don't have to know how to draw to make a beautiful piece. Bring some white cotton clothing or fabric to do your design on. Classes throughout August on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Thursday afternoons in the Procession Art Studio. Cost $10 Call Jeannette Sherman with Earthbound Productions at 705-1087.

The Minority Activist Apprenticeship Program

MAAP is currently seeking applicants for the fall cycle for the nation's premier organizer training program for people of color. Since 1985, MAAP has brought motivated activists together for seven weeks to learn the art of organizing through field-based training with a labor or community organization. The internship integrates political development with skills training in five major areas: Contact, Research, Action, Fundraising, and Teamwork (CRAFT).

MAAP interns receive a $200 per week stipend with all housing, health care and local transportation expenses covered. At the conclusion of the program, MAAP connects graduates in promising jobs with progressive community and labor organizations. MAAP is a program of the Center for Third World Organizing (CTWO), a national resource for organizations and individuals of color who are contributing to the movement for social and economic justice in the United States and around the world.

Qualifications: MAAP is for people of color, 18-30 years-old, with an interest in pursuing a career as a community or labor organizer. Applicants must complete the Community Action Training (CAT) as part of their application process prior the MAAP session of their interest. Dates: Fall Session: September 28 - November 13 Contact: For complete information on the MAAP and/or CAT program, or to apply/register online visit our web site: http://www.ctwo.org Telephone inquiries or mailed responses can be made to: Irene Juaniza, MAAP Director Center for Third World Organizing (CTWO) 1218 East 21st Street Oakland, CA 94606 telephone: 510.533.7583 x14 fax: 510.533.0923 email: ijuaniza@ctwo.

Retreat Center & Office Coordinator

CTWO is a national racial justice movement hub that works with individuals and organizations to craft political analysis, organizing skills, and visions of a just society. CTWO was founded in 1980 and has a current staff of twelve.

Ideal candidates would be: able to multi-task while maintaining attention to detail; proficient in Microsoft Word (in a MacIntosh environment a plus); proficient in Filemaker Pro (a plus); bilingual (a plus); and have a commitment to social justice. Salary 22-26K w/ an excellent benefits package including full health and paid vacation. People of color, women, lesbians, gays, and transgendered individuals are strongly encouraged to apply. Application deadline: open until filled. Please mail a cover letter and resume to: Edward Lee, Operations Director Center for Third World Organizing 1218 E. 21st Street Oakland, CA 94606 or email to: edlee@ctwo.org2

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The demise of Tumwater City Councilor Bear Cuddles, a tale beamed back from the Future

by Penny Thaler

It is the year 2050. The City of Tumwater is finally on the Register of All-American Poop-free Cities. To be thus recognized has cost the lives of all free-flying birds, crows, gulls, starlings and the like, and pets like dogs and cats must wear anal patches at all times. Unsoiled lush green lawns have become sacrosanct; to defile them may lead to the death penalty even for humans.

It follows, therefore, that City Councilor Bear Cuddles is worried beyond reason when, after a hearty meal during recess at one of those interminable council sessions, he feels he must obey Mother Nature's call. But to his dismay, the restrooms are off-limits due to (untimely) repairs. So he sneaks outdoors and relieves himself on the magnificent lawn that surrounds City Hall, quite against his will and even better knowledge. But what choice did he have? He thanks God for making this particular night very dark; low-flying clouds hide moon and stars. And he is determined to "clean up his mess" bright and early, before even the lawncare technicians arrive for their work.

Unfortunately, he wakes up late and the sun is shining. The phone rings. He picks it up. It's Axel Snitts, the local police chief and an old buddy and friend of his. But on this occasion, Snitt's voice sounds cold and angry.

"Bear," Snitts growls, "You've done it. We stand to lose our Poop-free City rating. And he tells Cuddles what was found on the City Hall lawn. Bear Cuddles fakes ignorance, but he doesn't get far.

"You used City Council paper for wiping," Snitts says dryly. "Furthermore, there's a personal message for you on it. May I quote?"

And Snitts reads, in a contemptuous tone: "Cuddly Bear — didn't know that's what you were called at home — Cuddly Bear, don't forget the shithole plugs for Whiskers and Rover. Love forever, your Honeypot — didn't know that's what you called her ..."

Councilor Cuddles is breathing heavily now. "What do you think I should do?" he asks, anxiety raising the pitch of his voice by a couple of octaves. "Get out of town, presto," the chief yells before slamming down the phone.

So Cuddles managed to flee Tumwater unobserved, taking survival gear and emergency food with him, and now cuts a trail through the brambles in the county's most recent wildlife preserve, south of Yelm. He sees what seems like water shimmering between the tree trunks, and upon getting closer, discovers a pond, and, horror upon horror, all around it rows upon rows of Canada geese. Yes, that's where they have taken refuge after so many of them were eliminated as the cities of Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater dug out from under mountains of goose poop.

As Cuddles spots the geese, they, ever on the alert, spot him, and before he can raise his Uzi to blast them to Featherland, they're on him and all over him, hissing, "Fight us or join us."

"Join you, grass-defecting poop-guns? Never," Cuddles mutters, manly to the last, for these were the last words he uttered. The geese now went to work, plugging up his colon with wet mud and dry sticks, then force-feeding him non-stop with algae and leaves until his abdomen could hold in the methane gas no longer and Cuddles blew up.

His hairpiece rose in the air and was carried by the south wind to Tumwater, where it landed on the same spot where he'd committed the unforgivable act.

Doesn't that give you goosepimples?

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
Get WIP!
see page 2

(KAOS, continued)

Management's commitment to an open, honest, and democratic station. The "report", and supporting documents, which I obtained through public record disclosure law, should have been freely available to you all along [see cover]. Michael can make them available for you to keep, and/or you can talk to me.

Austin Kelley, KAOS programmer
<austinkelley@hotmail.com>

Some Background

Although Station Manager Michael Huntsberger asserted (by a KAOS E-Mail) that the KAOS report was "proprietary" and not to be distibuted, I have taken it upon myself to transcribe the report and distribute it. I have since come to understand that his dictum probably violates both the spirit and the letter of various State and Federal Public Disclosure Laws. As you read the report I urge you to think critically about it: i.e. What are the underlying assumptions? How good is the methodology? Is there a hidden agenda? etc. etc.

Austin Kelley

A copy of TOPLINE SUMMARY OF FIRST PHASE FOCUS GROUPS for KAOS COMMUNITY RADIO IN OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON -An Interim Report- Presented By: Richard Brudvik-Lindner DOT CONsulting can be had by calling KAOS at 866-6000 x6897

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CokeSpotlight: Victory!

Victory? Victory!

In June, we let you know about the CokeSpotlight website (http://www.cokespotlight.org), an Adbusters-Greenpeace joint effort to put heat on Coca-Cola as one of the world's worst commercial HFC polluters. Today, we're sending our thanks and congratulations. The jam paid off: Coca-Cola has committed to stop keeping drinks cool while warming the planet with greenhouse gases.

From the moment it "went live," CokeSpotlight was crowded with visitors from around the world. You downloaded stickers and posters, you signed your names to petitions and letters - and you won.

So now the big question: What next?

First, we're keeping the heat on Coke. The company has promised that, in time for the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics, all its new coolers and vending machines will use clean Greenfreeze technology. Until they follow through on that promise, the CokeSpotlight campaign will continue.

Second, we'll prepare for our next step in strategic web jamming. Is there a global polluter or corporate criminal we should put in the Spotlight? Let us know (campaigns@adbusters.org), and let the jam go on!

Corporate Crackdown

But here's a strategic consideration: if we take on the corporations one by one, aren't we falling into an age-old trap? We can fight Shell, and The Gap, and Ford -- and we will -- but maybe there's a better target than any of these.

The corporation itself.

How did corporations -- these legal fictions that we ourselves created --gain the same rights and freedoms as we the people? Who gave these paper phantoms personhood, limited liability and immortality under the law? Check out "Corporate Crackdown" in Adbusters' Summer issue, and then get set to rewrite the corporate genetic code. At http://www.culturejammers.org you'll find some hands-on tools for the fight.

Radio and TV spots are in production; the CorporateSpotlight.org website is under construction.

Send your graphics, campaign concepts and strategic ploys to <crackdown@adbusters.org>. Let's crack the corporate "I".

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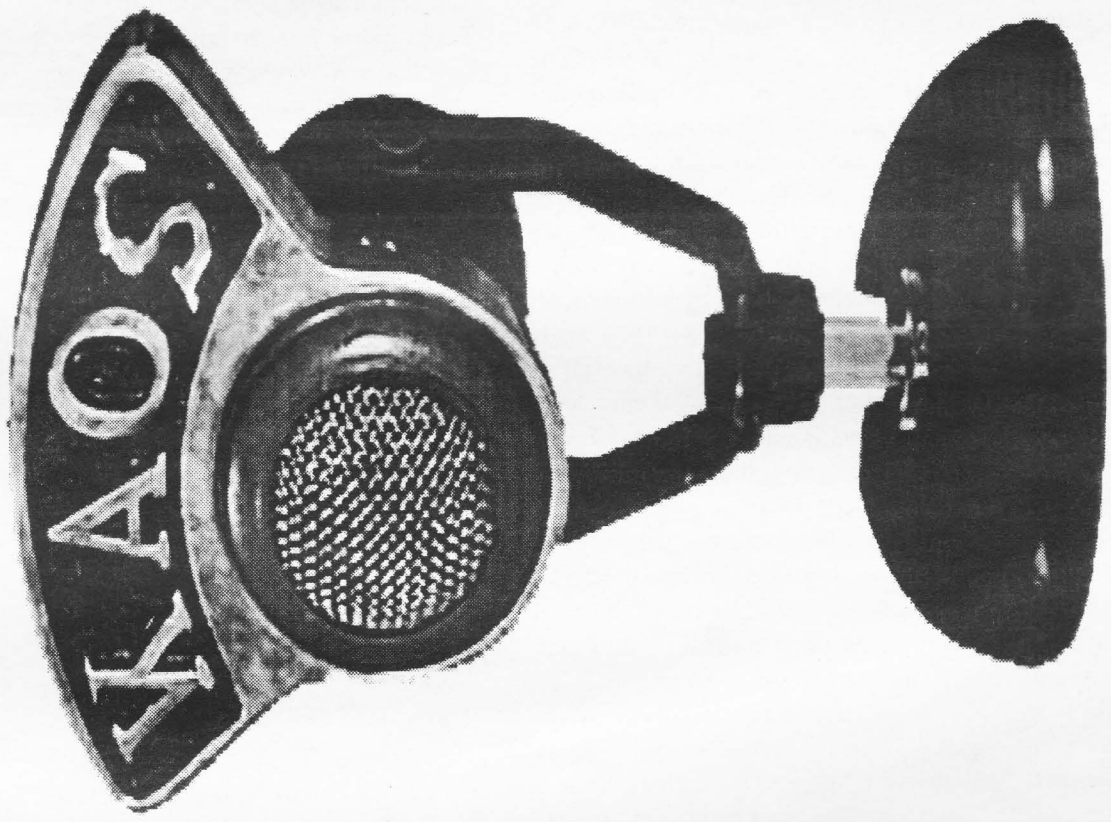

Chaos at KAOS?

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Chaos at KAOS?
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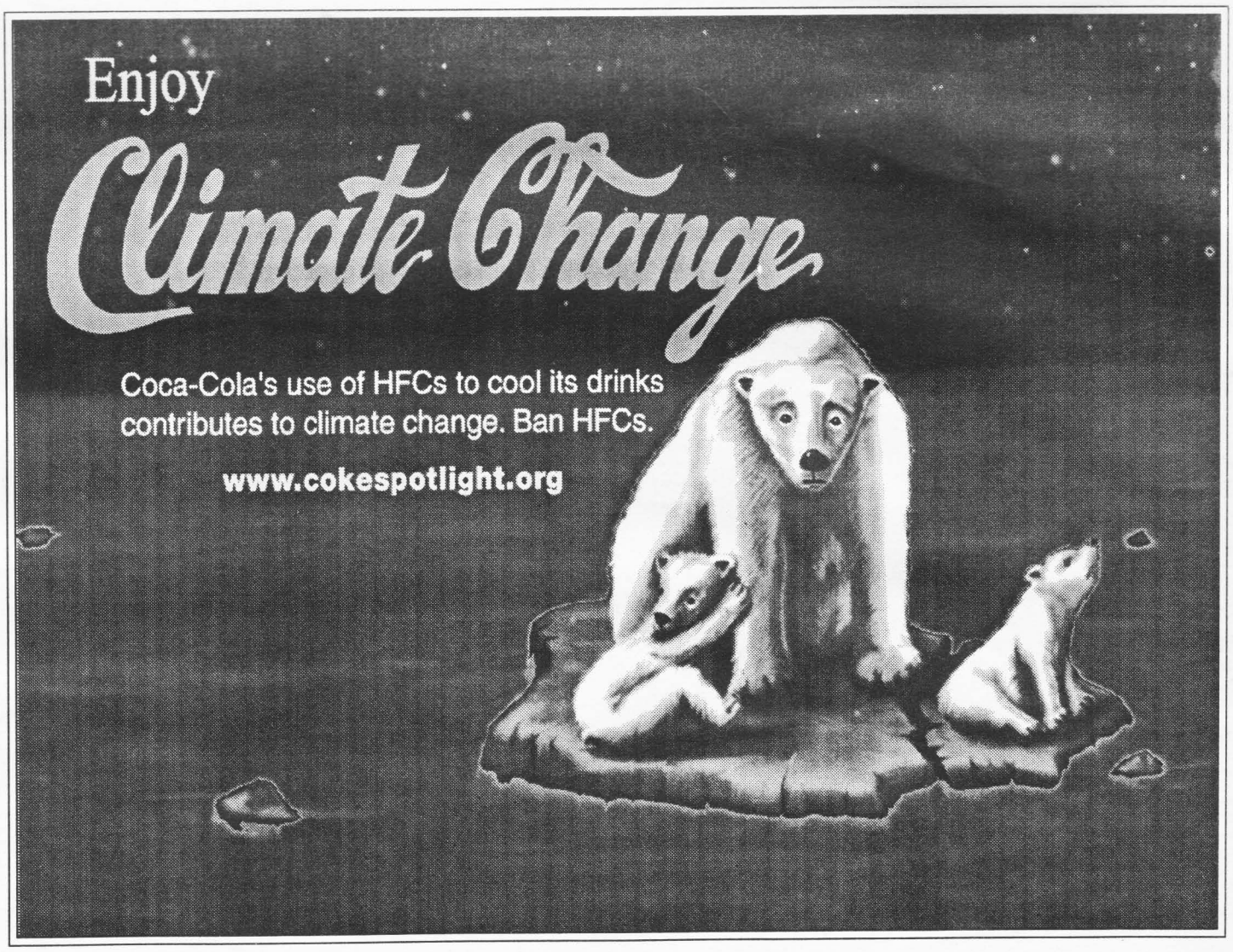
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